



Thursday, March 15, 2018

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Concern that road is becoming a rubbish 'hotspot'

# CAMERA CALL TO STOP FLY-TIPPING

Report by Jamie Brassington

**A COUNCILLOR has called for CCTV cameras to be installed at a dumping 'hotspot' in Halesowen following the latest incident of fly-tipping.**

Rubbish was discarded on Shelah Road, the second such incident in a month.

Belle Vale councillor Simon Phipps is calling on Dudley Council to implement the crime-busting measures in a bid to catch offenders.

He said: "There is absolutely no need or excuse for people dumping their rubbish at the side of the road like this.

"Shelah Road has unfortunately become a target for this activity recently. They'll carry on until something is done to catch offenders.

"In a month that is supposed to be 'The Great British Spring Clean' it is sad to see that some people treat our area in such a way.

The latest fly-tipping incident took place on March 10, following a similar incident in late February.

Councillor Phipps added: "It is probably the same people that are doing it."

"The council have been good in getting the rubbish cleared away but more needs to be done to stop this from happening over and over again. CCTV should be considered to try and achieve this."

It is the latest call for CCTV in the town after last week Halesowen Business Improvement District announced it was spearheading a campaign to bring cameras into the town centre in a bid to combat crime.

There has been concern over rising crime in the area, including thefts and violence.

Fly-tipping is a menace that costs communities across Dudley borough and the Black Country. In 2016/17, a total of 1,067 incidents of fly-tipping took place in Dudley, costing taxpayers £63,295.

## FAREWELL DODDY, HOW TICKLED WE WERE



Sir Ken Dodd pictured with the late Black Country comedian Tommy Mundon during one of his many visits to the Dudley area

ONE of the last of a golden generation of entertainers Ken Dodd leaves us the greatest gift he possessed... happiness.

He came from Liverpool but the people of the Black Country took him to their hearts like one of their own as he clocked up hundreds of hours, and thousands of laughs, on stages across the region over the years.

More than 60 years after first performing, Sir Ken - known to most as Doddy - was still drawing a crowd at the grand age of 90 with

many hoping to see him at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton this Sunday before news of his death came after a short illness.

Comedian and actor Josie Lawrence, from Old Hill, said: "I took mom and dad to see An Audience With Ken Dodd and still have the tape of that great night. You can see my dad on it - he's laughing, really laughing, and it's one of my most prized possessions. So thank you for that and for your genius"

Malcolm Palmer from the Stourbridge

branch of the George Formby Society, of which Dodd was a member, said: "I've met Ken on numerous time and he was always very supportive of the campaign to reopen the (Dudley) Hippodrome."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler said: "Sir Ken Dodd always said he loved coming to Dudley. Packed houses, genuine comedy and love from his fans in Dudley. Farewell friend."

● Remembering Doddy - see page 3

### COUNCIL

## Borough to take in 20 refugee families

A COMPANY is being offered up to £350,000 by Dudley Council to help resettle Syrian refugees in the borough.

Dudley Council has committed to take in 20 families left homeless by the civil war that has been raging in Syria over five years. So far it has taken in six families.

The local authority is looking for a firm to support housing and integrating the refugees. It has put a four-year contract out to tender, valued between £100,000 and £350,000. Councils receive £8,520 per refugee from the Government plus £4,500 to provide education for every child.

### POLICE

## Rise in violence and sex crimes

MORE than 150 violent and sexual offences were reported across Dudley in January, new figures have revealed.

A total of 164 attacks were reported across the borough compared to the same month in 2016 - which saw 115.

The increase has prompted calls for more community police officers on the streets. Dudley councillor Susan Ridney said she believed cuts to the police were partly to blame for the rise.

### CONSTRUCTION

## Dozens of Carillion jobs go at hospital

MORE than two dozen Carillion workers are being axed at the Midland Metropolitan Hospital site as rumours swirl that a Swedish construction firm is being lined up to take over building work.

Nearly two years behind schedule, the scheme in Smethwick has been at a standstill since Wolverhampton-based Carillion crashed in January.

● £6.4m on consultants - page 11

### INSIDE

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# Brierley Hill-Stourbridge link proposed



Site of planned tram stop

A RAILWAY or tram line extension is being considered by transport bosses as they begin to look beyond the completion of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Midland Metro route.

Work has started to clear the 11km-route from Cottage Street in Brierley Hill to Great Western Street in Wednesbury as part of the planned extension, which will go along seven kilometres (just under four and a half miles) of disused railway line. It is scheduled to be completed by 2023.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said work was also being done on plans for a

transport line extension to Stourbridge, either extending the Midland Metro tram line or laying down a new railway line.

He said: "There is planning taking place on how we can continue the tram or railway line to Stourbridge from Dudley.

## Network

"It would mean people from Dudley could join the main rail network at two different locations."

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill line link to the railway network would be at

Dudley Port main line station, near to Tipton.

The new Metro route will also go from Brierley Hill to Merry Hill shopping centre, Dudley town centre and Great Bridge. Trams would run every six minutes at peak times.

Stourbridge Line User Group member Don Barton has backed the plans for the line linking Stourbridge and Brierley Hill but said he would prefer it to be a railway line rather than tram. He added: "Any line extension would be good news for the area, improving the transport network and reducing congestion."

# Light at the end of tunnel for rail dream

**'I'M not here on a whim - I'm here because I genuinely believe we have got to do this'**

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling wants to give the Black Country's transport system lift-off with his backing for three major schemes.

In a whistle-tour of the region, Mr Grayling first arrived at the future site of Willenhall Railway Station, to be built as part of the reopening of passenger services between Wolverhampton and Walsall.

He then made the four-mile journey to Midland Metro's Wednesbury depot where he drove a new battery-powered tram, which will operate without overhead lines in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Finally, he headed to Brierley Hill town centre where he inspected the site of a planned terminus for trams on the planned Wednesbury to Dudley Midland Metro extension.

## Opportunity

At Brierley Hill, in Cottage Street near to the Asda supermarket, Mr Grayling and West Midlands Mayor Andy Street was joined by Dudley South MP Mike Wood and Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley.

It is where the Wednesbury to Dudley line, which follows a disused

railway line for most of the way, will end. There will be a total of 17 stations along the route, which will initially end at Merry Hill shopping centre in 2022. A £250m grant from the Government last year made the 11km-route a reality.

Mr Wood said: "The Government has given us the money and now we are working hard to clear the line and open up the route - in a few years it will give Dudley and Brierley Hill a passenger rail service for the first



Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling gets into the driving seat of a new battery-powered tram

time in decades." The passenger railway service from Dudley closed in 1964.

Mr Grayling said: "We are absolutely committed as a government and we have a great partnership with Andy Street in the West Midlands to deliver the right kind of transport system for the future."

"This Metro network is absolutely what the Birmingham and West Midlands needs, it's a real opportunity to improve connections and to do so in a

way which is quicker and easier than building new railway lines."

At Midland Metro's Wednesbury depot, Mr Grayling got in the driver's seat of a battery-powered tram. It does not require overhead lines and is the first of its type in the country. The tram is still being tested and is to come into use when the Wolverhampton Metro extension to the city's railway station opens in two years' time.

Mr Grayling said: "This is the first step to a technological revolution."

The lithium batteries in the tram are charged up by overhead lines before being able to power the vehicle without maintaining contact with overhead cables. The batteries were fitted in Spain and will be used on the entire Metro fleet, at a cost of £15.5m.

The Metro will be cable free through Victoria Square to Centenary Square in Birmingham city centre. The use of battery trams is also being considered for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill route.

# Sixth form at school is axed because it's too small

PARENTS have hit out at a school after it revealed it was axing part of its sixth form despite having already accepted applications for next year.

Perryfields High School in Oldbury has been branded 'disgraceful' for informing pupils about the move just weeks before they start their GCSEs.

Headteacher Ian Barton said the decision had been taken as the sixth form was too small but added it would be reinstated from 2019. The school promised that current Year 12 and 13 students would not be affected.

But the move has forced parents of pupils who had already secured a sixth form place at Perryfields to hastily make other arrangements.

Richard Greening, from Rowley Regis, whose 16-year-old son Charlie was due to start sixth form in September, is furious about the decision.

## Frantically

Charlie's parents were left not knowing whether they would be able to get him a place elsewhere and were forced to frantically search for alternative options. They are hopeful they have managed to get him into Windsor High School in Halesowen.

Mr Greening, aged 43, said: "There has been no consultation, no pre-warning. It's disgraceful."

"They shouldn't have offered it in the first place if they were not going to deliver it. I don't think it's an acceptable way to behave. The timing is absolutely ludicrous. In four months time, all the schools will be shut."

Headteacher Mr Barton, in a letter to parents, said: "This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made with the best interests of the whole school community."

"The small size of the sixth form has been a strength in many ways but in the current educational climate it has become increasingly apparent that a small sixth form such as ours is currently unable to offer the breadth of subjects we feel prepares students for a full range of pathways in the future."

"We realise students and parents have been put under pressure to find another option once GCSEs are over and we are supporting them through every step of this process."

# Choir and students in church concert

KINGSWINFORD Choral Society will join students from The Elgar School of Music in Worcester and Elmfield School in Stourbridge to perform a joint concert at St James's Church in Stourbridge on Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 on the door, under-18s go free.

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# Thief jailed again after his 14th burglary

A PROLIFIC 34-year-old thief is back behind bars after being convicted of his 14th domestic burglary.

Karl Pearsall stole jewellery of sentimental value when he broke into a house in Windsor Avenue, Oldbury. The haul included the engagement ring of the occupant, who was at work when the defendant struck on February 9.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Pearsall used a tool to prise open a side window and get into the property during the day. Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "He knows how to commit burglaries and first did so in 2002. On this occasion jewellery of great sentimental value was stolen."

A footprint found in the kitchen matched a pair of shoes worn by the defendant and some of the stolen jewellery was found at his home when police arrested him.

The break-in badly affected the victim, who had trouble sleeping after it happened, the court heard.

Mr Simon Williams, defending, said the life of Pearsall had been blighted by a heroin habit and the man was desperate for help in breaking the 'revolving door' that saw him going in and out of prison.

The defendant, from Round Hill, Hurst Green, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to burglary and was jailed for three years four months. Judge Dean Kershaw told him: "You have an appalling criminal record."

# Mayor steps up C4 TV campaign

CAMPAIGN work to encourage Channel 4 to set up a 'national headquarters' in the region is being stepped up.

It comes after the broadcaster confirmed it was to find a location outside London for the HQ. Two creative hubs for the channel will also be opened, although its London headquarters will remain.

Brierley Hill is among Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham on a list of four West Midlands locations to be considered by the broadcaster. The move will see 300 staff move out of London.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street is championing the Midlands campaign. He said: "I want to reflect on the energy that has gone into the social media campaign to persuade the Channel 4 board and indeed the Government that the West Midlands should be the new home for this iconic broadcaster."

"It's been brilliant to see the energy, the way the youth, the diversity, the story of the West Midlands has really got behind the campaign."

# £24m scheme to update leisure centres

A £24 million vision for the future of leisure centres in Dudley has been revealed. The borough's three centres will feature state-of-the-art facilities following major investment.

Details of the plans have emerged, which will see a new leisure centre built on Flood Street, Dudley, to replace the current building on Wellington Road, and sites at Stourbridge and Halesowen refurbished.

The centres in Dudley and Halesowen would both be fitted with 25-metre pools.

Bosses have now confirmed the new Dudley leisure centre, hailed by council chiefs as a facility 'fit for the 21st century', will be built on the Flood Street car park as part of plans to regenerate that part of the town.

It will be named in honour of Dudley-born Manchester United and England football legend Duncan Edwards.

Under current plans, it will include a 25-metre, eight-lane pool and smaller learning pool. There will also be a five-court sports hall, a gym, two studios, a viewing area and cafe.

The Wellington Road facility would be bulldozed and the site sold off for development.

## Refurbished

Existing centres in Stourbridge and Halesowen, which have become run-down and dated, will undergo major overhauls.

The pool at Stourbridge will be refurbished and

there will be new changing rooms. At Halesowen, the existing 33-yard pool will be converted into a 25-metre, eight-lane pool. The gym will also be extended.

Regeneration boss Councillor Ian Kettle said: "We are delighted with the upgrade of our facilities, which will meet the public's aspiration and needs."

"We have made great progress and things are looking good for the future."

He added: "These facilities are part of our healthy vision for the borough as we do need to get more people active."

Work on the Dudley and Stourbridge centres is expected to start in April 2019 and at Halesowen a year later.

# £350m new deal to step up house building

THE West Midlands has been handed a £350 million war chest to kick-start the region's biggest house building programme in decades.

Announcing the funding boost in his Spring statement, Chancellor Philip Hammond said the region had committed to delivering 215,000 homes by 2031.

It includes a £100m land and housing fund for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), which will deliver around 8,000 homes on the Walsall to Wolverhampton rail corridor.

The deal comes after ministers revealed plans to bring the line back into use, including new railway stations at Willenhall and Darlaston.

The housing fund will focus on preparing brownfield sites for redevelopment across the Black Country with Smethwick highlighted as a key priority.

It means the region will aim to build 16,000 homes a year, up from an average of 10,000 over the last three years.

## Milestone

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, said the deal was 'a huge milestone' for the West Midlands that would help 'relieve pressure' on the greenbelt.

That has been a major issue in Halesowen where campaigners have feared pressure for homes would result in developments along the town's rural fringe.

"Everybody acknowledges the housing challenges we face in this country," added Mr Street. "We have been clear with Government that here in the West Midlands we are a key part of the solution."

Councillor Sean Coughlan, leader of Walsall Council and the WMCA's lead on housing and land, said: "This deal will give us more tools to work with our partners and use innovative techniques to ensure delivery."

The West Midlands is the first region in the country to be given cash from the Government's £4.1bn housing infrastructure fund, earmarked for homes in areas of high demand.

## Dudley venue was special for Doddy



Ken Dodd pictured with fellow top turns helping to cut the birthday cake at Dudley Hippodrome in 1957

DUDLEY Hippodrome was one of the late Sir Ken Dodd's favourite venues.

The now boarded-up venue on Castle Hill was a stage for Dodd on numerous occasions, including the comedian's debut year in 1954. He returned in 1957, by then already a star, to mark the venue's birthday by cutting the

cake. He went on to perform at all the major venues in the Black Country and Birmingham

Two years ago he offered to perform for free to help raise funds for the proposed revamp of the building. Now there will be no benefit concert and the venue's future looks bleak after Dudley Council took back the lease, say-

ing campaigners could not attain their targets to save the venue.

Sir Lenny Henry tweeted: "I first saw Doddy in 1975 at the Blackpool Opera house. Comedians all over the shop hiding pens and pads. He ravaged us with gags, one after the other. After an hour and a half he paused, looked at us and said 'd'you give in?'"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Shell monument is given a home

A MONUMENT made from a spent artillery shell is set to be installed in a part of Halesowen that was named after a previous similar landmark.

The painted war memorial earmarked for Shell Corner will finally replace one which went missing decades ago. The neighbourhood earned its name from the original shell which stood from 1924 until the 1970s when it disappeared during roadworks.

Halesowen North ward councillor Stuart Henley, who has led the project, said brickwork for a plinth started on Monday and the monument is set to be lowered into place on Wednesday.

### Chance to enter a new talent show

BUDDING singers, musicians and other performers will be able to strut their stuff in front of judges when a talent show takes place this weekend.

Halesowen's Got Talent will be held at Benjamin's in Halesowen on Sunday. Run by MW Promotions UK, it will be the first time the competition has been held in the town.

A prize of £150 will be up for grabs. At the show, which runs from 1pm to 6pm.

Entry for competitors cost £5 while audience tickets cost £3. For further information call 07598981932.

### Further charge in flat killing case

ANOTHER teenager has been charged over the murder of Jaskaran Kang in Dudley.

The 17 year-old, from Dudley, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested on Thursday morning and remanded in custody to appear before Dudley Magistrates Court.

Mr Kang, aged 24, from Handsworth, was found fatally stabbed at a flat in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, on January 6. Four other men, aged 17 to 20, have already been charged with murder and another with conspiracy to commit robbery.

### £20m is earmarked for athlete's village homes

AMBITIOUS plans to build an athlete's village in Birmingham ahead of the Commonwealth Games have received a boost with £20 million pledged by planning bosses.

The West Midlands Combined Authority has earmarked the cash for the development in Perry Barr. Up to 1,226 properties will act as temporarily accommodation for the athletes during the Games, and provide permanent homes for locals after.

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# Crackdown is launched on litterbugs and dog mess

**A ZERO-TOLERANCE squad is set to pound the streets of Dudley in a blitz on litter louts and dog fouling.**

The council has employed Kingdom Enforcement Services, including ex-police and military personnel armed with body cameras, to take on responsibility for patrolling the streets, parks and open spaces across the borough in a year-long trial.

The initiative is expected to see a significant increase in the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for those who drop litter or fail to pick up after their pets.

## Toys R Us starting to close stores

TOYS R Us stores are to begin closing this week as hopes fade for finding a buyer for the stricken business, which employs more than 3,000.

The toy chain, which includes stores at Oldbury and at the Merry Hill shopping centre, appointed Moorfields Advisory to oversee administration at the end of February after the firm failed to find a rescuer.

Moorfields said it would begin an 'orderly wind-down' of stores and it is now understood that the insolvency specialist is poised to close the first batch as it runs down stock. Hundreds of jobs are set to be lost. It is thought Moorfields will begin with the closure of at least 26 loss-making stores.

The move will not cost the council, with Kingdom receiving payment directly as a percentage of the financial penalties issued. The local authority will still retain a percentage of the income from the fixed penalty notices.

### Officers

The company will initially have five officers on the beat plus one team leader overseeing operations. It already works with more than 30 local authorities across the country, including Wolverhampton City Council.

More than 9,000 FPNs were issued in Wolverhampton in 2016 after the firm were brought in by the local authority. Comparative figures show just 25 were handed out from April 2014 to March 2015, before the firm took over.

New litter police in Walsall last year reported handing out 250 fines worth a potential £20,000 in just under six months in the battle to clean up the borough after council chiefs employed private enforcement firm 3GS. Sandwell Council fined just 10 people for dropping litter in 2015/2016.

## It's Chico time as pop star turns fitness guru



Former X Factor sensation Chico Slimani leads a Blockfit fitness routine at Lutley Primary School in Halesowen

WHAT time is it? It was 'Chico time' in Halesowen as the X Factor star turned fitness guru made a special appearance at a community dance workshop.

Chico Slimani, who knocked Madonna off the top spot in 2006 with his

single 'It's Chico Time', was at Lutley Primary School on Saturday to lead the fast-paced dance class. The event was orchestrated by local gym owner Tracey Nicholls, who signed up to be an instructor for Chico's fitness firm Blockfit.

Launched by the star in 2015, Blockfit classes fuse dance, combat, HIIT (high-intensity interval training) with yoga inspired moves and meditation. Instructors, like 43-year-old Tracey, can study the Blockfit tand then teach it at their own gym.

## Concert marks century since end of war

A SPECIAL memorial concert to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War is to be held in Dudley this month.

Taking works composed in the name of peace, Dudley Town Hall is joining forces with Gig Caritas to stage a 1918 Memorial Concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday, March 24. The main work will be Karl Jenkins' hugely popular 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace'.

There will also be works by Faure, Tippett, Holst and Haydn.

The concert will feature the 70-strong Restoration Chorus, 60 players from Stourbridge Chamber Orchestra as well as Third From The Right Productions providing readings. It will also feature guest soprano soloist Louise Maguire, who will be coming back to her home region from Reims in France where she now lives and performs.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler said: "I'm really looking forward to attending this event. It's so important for us to remember those who gave their lives on the fields of battle and this promises to be a poignant and memorable evening."

Musical director will be Stourbridge-based Keith Horsfall, with the evening in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's three chosen charities - Dudley Mind, Dudley Alzheimer's Society and the YMCA Black Country Group.

Keith Horsfall, musical director for Gig Caritas, said: "Karl Jenkins' magnificent work 'The Armed Man' is a wonderfully approachable but intensely moving musical plea for the cause of peace."

Tickets cost £12 plus booking fees, available by calling (01384) 812812 or online at [www.borough.halls.co.uk](http://www.borough.halls.co.uk). The concert starts at 7.30pm.

## BETTA BUILDINGS

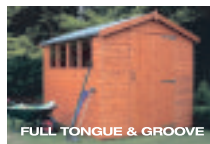
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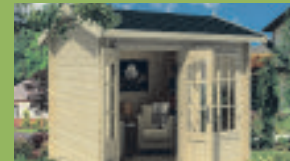


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## College under fire over move to scrap A-levels

STOURBRIDGE college has been urged to re-think a decision to scrap A-levels from September.

Stourbridge College's decision has been criticised with parents now left with just weeks to make other arrangements for children who planned to study A-levels at the college.

A councillor in Stourbridge called the move to axe A-levels at one of the region's major colleges 'disappointing' and said bosses should reconsider.

The college, which is run by the Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) and caters for hundreds of students across the Black Country, announced last week that A-levels were to be phased out as part of a shift towards more vocational courses.

Current A-level students will be able to complete their courses.

Stourbridge councillor Nicolas Barlow said: "I can't understand the reasoning behind it. It is a bit disappointing they have taken this decision. They need to have a look and have a re-think about the impact it will have on various schools that feed into the Stourbridge area. It is a bit ill-timed and perhaps a bit ill-thought through."

Gill Coldicott, head of Stourbridge College, said: "Every prospective student who has applied to start A-levels in September has been notified of the decision and offered access to advice and guidance and information on alternative courses at BMet."

## Roddy solo gig

SINGER, songwriter and frontman of rock band Idlewild, Roddy Woomble, has a gig at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath next Thursday (March 22). He has won acclaim for his latest solo album *The Deluder* and will also be playing some Idlewild songs. Support is from Tom Joshua.

# MP calls for rethink on threat to Black Country tax office jobs

## Widow's memories of her hero husband

HE spent 32 years in the police force and once saved a woman and her baby from a burning flat.

But Derek Blakeway will be most remembered for his love for classical music and Mozart, according to his proud widow, Margaret.

Scores of Mr Blakeway's friends and family turned out at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church in Cradley Heath last Monday to say their final farewells to the popular 82-year-old.

Margaret, 79, said the couple would have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary next month.

"He was a very intelligent man and he was well-read. He loved every type of classical music. He really liked people. He was a very well-rounded man."

On April 1 1964, Mr Blakeway, who lived in Cradley Heath, made the headlines for his bravery when he saved a mother and her three-month-old baby from a fire in Cape Hill, Smethwick.

Mrs Blakeway said: "I could smell the smoke on his uniform. He did not think he had done anything out of the normal. I was proud. I kept associating that with the fact we had got a six-month-old baby."

Mr Blakeway, a constable in Smethwick and West Bromwich between 1955 and 1987, was also a keen sportsman. He played football and cricket for Staffordshire and enjoyed boxing.

He is also survived by his sons, John and Michael, and granddaughter Alice.



Margaret Blakeway with a photo of husband Derek during his days in the police

MINISTERS have been accused of living in 'fantasy land' over the impact of closing tax offices in Brierley Hill.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said the Government had so far given 'no answers' to concerns he raised over proposals to shut HMRC's tax credits office at The Waterfront, with the potential loss of 250 jobs.

Labour MP Mr Austin said the closure would be 'a huge setback' for the Black Country. Ministers said staff could move to the new HMRC Birmingham central office, due to open in 2020.

Mr Austin led a Parliamentary debate on the issue calling on Financial Secretary Mel Stride to 'look again' at the proposals and the timetable.

He said: "I think the minister gave us no answers at all to be quite honest. We want him to look at this properly."

"That idea that people should be travelling from Brierley Hill to central Birmingham and back in the rush hour is complete fantasy land. You'd either need Lewis Hamilton to be driving or have a helicopter."

Last summer civil servants at the Dudley office were told they would be transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions to work on the introduction and implementation of Universal Credit. Then, in October, they were informed they would remain at the Waterfront working on the new benefit.

"Instead, at the end of January it was announced that the Government had changed their mind, that their jobs were at risk and that the office would close," Mr Austin told MPs. "That came as a huge shock to the hard-working, highly skilled and loyal staff."

Conservative MP Mike Wood, whose Dudley South constituency includes the HMRC offices, has urged the Government to give employees 'the certainty that they need'.

## Striker back for mascot charity game

FORMER Albion striker Peter Odemwingie is poised to don an Albion shirt once more in a charity match for former Baggies mascot Richard Eades.

The striker has signed up for an Albion Legends XI which will take on a team of supporters at Halesowen Town on Sunday, April 29.

The match has been organised in memory of the popular Eades, a long-serving Baggies employee who died in December.

Odemwingie, who currently plays for Indonesian outfit Madura United, confirmed his involvement via a video message on Twitter. He said: "I'm looking forward to putting on the blue and white stripes in the charity game in memory of Eadesy."

The showpiece event sees Boing FC, the Albion supporters' team which Eades was involved with for over 10 years, take on the Albion Legends XI at around 4.30pm. Tickets cost £5.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Sporting ethics are not MPs' concerns

AS sporting events go, it is hard to think of anything more dreary than the Tour de France, a spectacle of unsmiling men in synthetic clothing using a slow, outdated form of transport. It's like a three-week episode of the new politically correct Top Gear, without Clarkson's wit.

That said, I can't help but feel sympathy for Sir Bradley Wiggins, who finds his reputation in tatters after a Department for Culture, Media and Sport select committee accused him and his team of "crossing an ethical line."

Now I have no idea whether Wiggins used nefarious means to win the 2012 Tour de France, but since when has it been the role of politicians to adjudicate on sporting conduct? Surely this is a matter for the cycling authorities.

What next? VAR replays being transmitted to Westminster? Parliamentary votes on LBW and penalty decisions? Then again, if somebody wants to make Ken Clarke and John Prescott run the line at the New Den, that's fine with me.

BESIDES, if politicians want to become embroiled in sport, there are more pressing issues.

Last week a man and his daughter were poisoned with nerve gas in Salisbury, and several innocent civilians, including a seriously ill policeman, are in hospital.

If – and it's still a big if – Russia is behind the attacks, our options are limited. Economic sanctions? Been there, done that. Military action? Out of the question. Send a few diplomats home? Putin would laugh up his sleeve.

One thing that would hurt Putin though, would be if his beloved World Cup was in jeopardy. Now if, as suggested, England dropped out, it might be perceived as an empty gesture. After all, our chances of winning are slim. But imagine if France, Germany, Italy, Holland and Belgium also joined the boycott as a show of European solidarity against tyranny. Yeah, right. They'd rather punish us over Brexit.

SO sad to hear about the death of Ken Dodd. One of the last of a dwindling breed, he saw his role as making us laugh. No smut, no politics, just good clean fun.

One of my favourite moments as a journalist was sitting with him backstage at Dudley Town Hall, where he fondly reminisced about his days as a young comedian, cutting his teeth at Dudley Hippodrome followed by some heady nights in its Glue Pot bar.

Sir Ken is no longer with us, and the Hippodrome won't be for much longer either. Sad days.

## Government: It's everybody's fault but theirs



Donald Trump – European Union warning over threat of imposing tariffs



Max Mosley – morphing into Twister from Beeb's Lark Rise to Candleford?



Monty Don – 'seriously misquoted' over using fewer plastic products in our gardens

# It all comes down to blame culture

HOW to be a government. 1) Allow the population to grow by 500,000 a year. 2) Blame local councils for not permitting enough houses. 3) Blame developers for not building enough houses. 4) Blame landowners for not releasing land for more houses. 5) Blame everybody but yourselves.

THE European Union warns that if Donald Trump imposes tariffs, Brussels may retaliate with tariffs on Levi jeans, Harley Davidson motorbikes and bourbon whiskey. The price of that mid-life crisis could go through the roof.

FROM the small ads: "Deep fryer for sale, excellent condition, no chips."

I KNEW this had been a long, miserable winter but it was only after putting my old boat on the lake this week that I realised how long. It was the first time I had sailed since October 12. We Brits spend half the year waiting for the other half and hoping it will be better.

I WROTE recently about Donald Trump's joke on "self-deprecating humour." A reader says surely this should be "humor." Not at all. Trump, being an American, said "humor" but I, being British, heard "humor." On my honor.

I AM at the age where blokes worry about prostate cancer. As well they might. Years of watching TV medical dramas has convinced most of us that the Big C follows a pattern. You get the symptoms, go for tests which confirm the GP's hunch, the clever young surgeon cuts out the offending tumour and you live happily ever after (unless the TV ratings are bad, in

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



which case they may bump you off). As a survey this week reveals, prostate cancer is very different.

WITH prostate cancer you may or may not develop symptoms. The only available test for detecting signs of prostate cancer is about as much use as tossing a coin. A follow-up biopsy may leave you impotent, incontinent or both. The cancer may kill you quickly or do nothing, and you die of old age. A serious prostate cancer can look benign and a benign cancer can appear serious. And sometimes surgery can release cancerous cells into the rest of your body. We need a better diagnostic process. So is there no hope? Actually, there is. This latest study followed 400,000 middle-aged men for a decade. And while routine PSA screening for prostate cancer appeared to save no lives, only three men in every 1,000 died of prostate cancer during the 10 years. Those are not bad odds. While there's no room for complacency about prostate cancer, the one thing this survey proves conclusively is that there's a lot of other stuff you can die of.

I SUSPECT Monty Don, the TV gardener, has been seriously misquoted. He wants us to use fewer plastic products in our gardens. This has been translated as a call to "get rid of" plastic tubs, pots, dibbers and so on. But it's getting rid of plastic that has caused the environmental

nightmare in the first place. Don't bin it. Keep the plastic you've got but don't buy any more.

INCIDENTALLY, I am down to my last 18 plastic straws from a box, purchased some years ago, which contained 225 and carries the message from Sainsbury's "We care about our quality and what you think." I wonder what they think I should do with my last 18 straws.

ACCORDING to my local council's latest report, "sport" is the second biggest item of its expenditure. It spends more on maintaining tennis courts and providing pitches where talentless amateur footballers can scream obscenities at each other on Sunday mornings than it does on public safety, street cleaning, theatres and museums, and I dare say it's not alone. This country spends billions every year subsidising the entrenched and unchallenged notion that sport is A Good Thing which produces a fit and healthy nation that aims to win but is noble in defeat. Where, oh where, is the evidence?

IT was entirely right and proper that Members of Parliament, in the form of the The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee, should be the ones to dish the dirt this week on drug taking among British cyclists. After all, it's obvious that MPs never take anything to improve their performance.

THE strain may be taking its toll on Max Mosley. Does anyone else think he's morphing into Twister (Karl Johnson) from the Beeb's Victorian drama, Lark Rise to Candleford?

## TALKING POINT



# Sometimes people are thankful for a moan

MY esteemed colleague last week wrote about the importance of saying thank you and I wholeheartedly agree with him on this. However, there are some occasions where I would be more tempted to say no thank you.

Unlike him I am not referring to the common courtesy thank yous when you hold the door open for someone, give them your seat on the train etc. They are always a must. I refer to service that you are less than happy with. Yes in any line of work it is lovely when you receive a phone call or letter expressing gratitude for what you have done but what if the opposite is the case?

I must admit I do have a reputation for complaining about things. Sometimes when we are out for a meal with friends I think they cringe. But if I ask for my steak medium rare that is how I want it, not done to a crisp. You are paying for the food and it should be what you ordered. Or if the food is not hot enough I send it back. I would not expect to eat it like that at home and certainly not when I am paying somebody else to provide it.

And actually the establishment should be grateful for my feedback as maybe the next time they will make sure they get it right for the customer.

It's the same with things bought in shops or online. If that product does not do what you think it should or does not look like it does on the internet site why shouldn't you take/send it back and complain? How will these businesses learn if they never have your opinion – good or bad.

And this can actually lead to a very positive experience for both sides. I recently had a problem – a scratch – with some furniture I ordered. Admittedly it was a small one which I could have covered up if necessary but I went on the online chat line and explained the situation and at no stage did they belittle my comment.

In fact they were grateful for the feedback and sorted out my complaint, turning a bad experience into a good one.

It meant that I would both use the service again and recommend it to friends. Word of mouth is so important for businesses. That is why so many send out feedback forms. You are positively encouraged to give your verdict – good or bad.

So don't be afraid to speak out. As long as it is constructive criticism or a genuine complaint it should be dealt with and hopefully then resolved.

To say thanks is great but there is nothing wrong with saying NO THANKS.

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# Debating Corbyn's take on knife crime

LET us debate the wisdom of that bearded old sage, Jeremy Corbyn, regarding knife crime.

As ever we are treated to one of Jezza's gems. Here in the West midlands, there have been 21 stabbings so far in 2018, of which five resulted in a murder charge.

While taking a stroll down Stourbridge High Street, Jezza imparted once more a few musings which show how astute he is at looking at a problem, analysing it and coming to a resolution.

"A mandatory jail sentence is not necessary. Community service and re-

storative justice can be a much more effective tool."

He had come to this conclusion because he once interviewed a woman who had been imprisoned three times for major offences.

Luckily for us all, instead of prison, when she came up for sentencing the fourth time, she was given community service. Lo and behold, she became a model citizen.

As I have in the past had community service yobs thrust upon me to do menial jobs, I'm a little confused.

It was round about the time that those orange tabards were dispensed

with due to them causing untold embarrassment to the wearers. The disadvantage of using these men was the fact that if they actually turned up on time, the amount of work done in a day might be an hour or so. Not good if you have deadline to meet.

Furthermore, the chaps in charge daren't say boo to them for fear of reprisals. Though in my case they did have spades, rakes, wheelbarrows etc, I certainly wouldn't want anyone willing to use a knife within 100 miles of a pick, a fork or pair of scissors.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE  
Dudley

## Devoid of compassion or wind-up?

I CANNOT decide if Stephen Fellows (Letters, March 1), is winding us up or if he is completely devoid of compassion and logic.

Those lovely old top shops disappeared because the likes of Mr Fellows stopped using them. That's business.

Those boarded-up premises are abandoned because the council focused attention on Merry Hill and The Waterfront as the prestigious way forward instead of exercising imaginative policies to encourage enterprise in the town centres around the borough.

Rubbish in the High Street has been dumped by its own worthy citizens.

Why this knee-jerk reaction to the homeless to move them on for another authority to deal with when the answer is right there. Unboard the shops and let the poor souls gather the dumped bedding and make some sort of refuge for themselves.

MARY PEARSON  
Pedmore

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Change in law over gun rights needed

THERE can be nothing worse than losing a loved one to a violent gun crime. America has in its constitution the right to bear arms. But you would think most Americans would have reached the conclusion that having this right has led to thousands of innocent people dying.

America needs to realise that allowing so many to be armed does not protect you but increases the chance of being killed. A change in the law to make it illegal to carry arms is needed. It will take years to get the guns off the streets but over time it will be successful.

JOHN GREEN  
Sedgley

## Use cash for Civic on the Hippodrome

WOLVERHAMPTON Council is committed to spending £36million to modernise the Civic/Wolverhampton Halls. Why not abandon that project and use the funds to refurbish Dudley Hippodrome?

The areas around the Hippodrome, the Black Country Museum and Canal Tunnels are becoming a worldwide heritage attraction area and the zoo also brings in tourists. The Hippodrome could be used for major exhibitions as well as the traditional concerts. The road connections and local parking are so much better than Wolverhampton. It could also help reverse the terminal decline of Dudley centre.

Wolverhampton would still have the Grand Theatre, art gallery and university. It is probably too much to hope that our politicians would be brave enough to consider such Black Country co-operation.

DAVID STEELE  
Wolverhampton

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# Failings at hospital contributed to death

**NEGLECT** at Sandwell General Hospital contributed to the death of a pensioner from Rowley Regis.

Frank Hayward 'may not have died' if hospital staff had spotted the 83-year-old was suffering a bleed to the brain after a fall.

Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique on Friday recorded a conclusion of accidental death, contributed to by neglect.

He said there were 'failures' when staff did not diagnose his bleed following a CT scan and a 'missed opportunity' to identify the former sheet metal worker had fractured his neck.

Mr Hayward's health deteriorated during his stay, contracting norovirus and falling from his bed.

He died before his family, who had been warned to stay away after an outbreak of the infection, got to the hospital on December 10.

The coroner added: "There were a catalogue of issues. The systems in place were inadequate at the time."

## Nurse

Chief Nurse Elaine Newell said: "We are very sorry for the death of Frank Hayward and would like to offer our deepest sympathies to his family and friends."

"We recognise that we missed opportunities to make Frank more comfortable whilst he was in hospital, and should have identified the extent of his injury whilst he was in our emergency department."

"We are adding to the documentation for the management of head injuries to ensure all necessary tests are done as a matter of urgency, and are sharing the learning from his experience with colleagues across the trust."



The family of Frank Hayward heard that his death may have been preventable

## Club's best year raises £87k

A SPORTING club donated a record amount of more than £87,000 to good causes and charities in 2017.

There have been changes at the top of Pedmore Sporting Club with Jon Bellfield becoming president of the Stourbridge-based club after two years as chairman. He has been replaced in that role by Adrian Grainger.

Mr Bellfield, executive chairman of property developers and investors Barberry Group, said 2017 had been a record year of fundraising for Ped-

more Sporting Club. He revealed that £87,914 was going to good causes.

A summer ball raised more than £20,000, a celebrity lunch with former boxing world champion John Conteh collected more than £2,500, while a dinner raised almost £2,700.

Donations included £10,000 to Acorns Hospice, £5,000 to Meningitis Research, £3,480 to Help for Heroes, and £16,000 to Debbie Drew, who was brain damaged when helping to rescue a boy from drowning.

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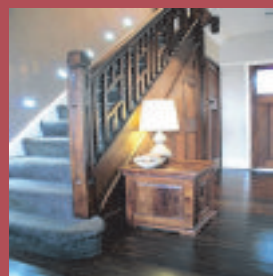
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# 10 Access to council's services via internet

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 15, 2018

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A MySandwell account helps people get in touch with a range of council services, from reporting a problem to viewing their council tax bill.

Each session lasts two hours with visitors using tablets provided by the library.

Councillor Steve Trow, cabinet member for core council services, said: "These sessions are aimed at our council tenants and anyone in Sandwell who wants to use the website but doesn't know how."

"I would encourage people to find out how our website and a MySandwell account can help them when seeking help from or doing business with the council."

## Email

Before the sessions begin, library staff will provide an email address for anyone that does not currently have one.

Sessions take place from 10.30am to 12.30pm, with refreshments provided.

They take place at Central Library, West Bromwich, Oldbury Library and Tipton Library on March 19 and 26; and at Blackheath, Smethwick and Wednesbury libraries on March 21 and 28; at Tipton Library on March 19 and 26; at Wednesbury on March 21 and 28.

For more details, call your local library or just turn up on the day. People only need to attend one two-hour session.

For more information about MySandwell or to sign up for an account, go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell) website.

# TV expert helps family tackle 'naughty Demi', 6



Demi launches an attack on her mother Lisa, as grandmother Sharon intervenes

**A MOTHER from Oldbury was punched, bitten and had her hair pulled as she came under attack – from her six-year-old daughter.**

Lisa, aged 29, was regularly subjected to shocking abuse as she struggled to control her violent daughter. The single mother's plight was revealed on the Channel 5 show Violent Child, Desperate Parents in which she battled to put a stop to her daughter Demi's ferocious temper.

The show follows child behavioural expert Laverne Antrobus as she tries

to help parents at the end of their tether with their unruly children.

She told Lisa she needed to be firmer and let Demi know who was in charge. Lisa, who lives with her mother Sharon, was told there was no 'clear marked line' in the household about who was in charge.

## Advised

She advised Lisa to use negotiating techniques, offering her alternatives when she has a tantrum, rather than saying 'no'.

Lisa said: "She can be absolutely lovely and give you the most wonder-



In another incident, 'naughty Demi' used a walking stick to hit her mother

ful loves, kisses, hugs, then she can just change in seconds. It's like somebody turns the switch on and somebody else comes, what she calls the 'bad Demi'."

During a tantrum after Demi was told she wasn't allowed sweets before dinner she ended up grabbing her mother's hair, only letting go when her grandmother became involved.

Laverne said it was Sharon's involvement confusing the youngster. She explained: "I can see there isn't a very clear marked line about who is in charge in the household in terms of the adults?"

Demi admitted she was aware of her bad behaviour: "Naughty Demi gets through a gap through the back of my head. She's horrid."

Demi lashed out at her mother repeatedly during the show but Laverne said she believed Lisa was allowing it to happen.

However, after six weeks of training Demi's behaviour improved.

Lisa admitted Demi had lost her temper since but she was able to control it and the violence had stopped. It came after Laverne advised the mother to use negotiating techniques to help diffuse tense situations.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Probe launched as prisoner dies

AN investigation has been launched after a prisoner died at HMP Birmingham.

He was found dead at the Winson Green jail, operated by security firm G4S.

It is believed the prisoner, who has not been named, was found in his cell. G4S said the death will be investigated by the prison and the probation ombudsman.

Rob Kellett, Director of HMP Birmingham, said: "His next of kin have been informed and our thoughts are with them at this difficult time."

### Bodycote enjoys boom in profits

ENGINEERING group Bodycote, which has sites in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Coventry, enjoyed growth in both sales and profits last year.

Revenue was up 14.9 per cent from 2016 to £690.2 million with pre-tax profits up from £91.9m to £117m.

Chief executive Stephen Harris said: "Strong growth was achieved through contributions from contract wins on automotive and aerospace programmes."

### Officers recommend care home for approval

COUNCIL bosses have recommended approval of plans to turn a former restaurant into a care home.

The application is for the site of the old Valentino Restaurant in Newbury Lane, Oldbury.

A Sandwell Council officer's report said: "The proposals would have a positive impact in general locality by removing a long standing eyesore site that has resulted in numerous complaints from local residents."

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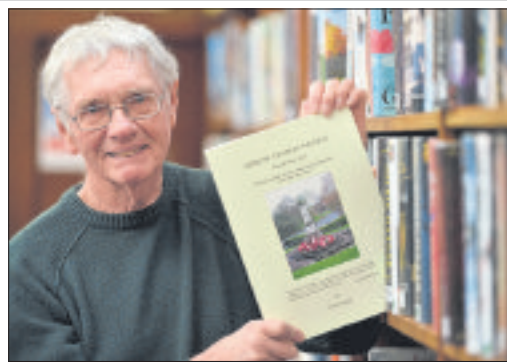
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Terry Evans has focused on experiences of Cradley servicemen

# Cradley's memorial inspired Second World War book

A BLACK Country historian has had a book published about armed forces personnel from Cradley who fought in the Second World War.

Author Terry Evans has focused on the impact of the war on local people. It comes just over four years after a book by Mr Evans about Cradley's finest during the First World War.

Some of Cradley's Finest - World War Two tells the tales of people connected to the area, those who

lost their lives in the conflict and those who survived.

The book has been published by Midland Film And Art, based in Cradley, and will be distributed by the Cradley Then and Now history group.

Retired metallurgist Mr Evans, aged 73, said: "Originally the idea came when I was looking at the Cradley war memorial. I was just looking at the names on there and then I started to research it.

"It was just a hobby to start with but when I retired I decided to put it into a book. That's when I got into it properly.

Mr Evans, who grew up in Cradley but now lives in Halesowen, added: "It is the stories of men with Cradley connections who fought in the war, some named on the war memorial and some not. The war memorial was the catalyst but there are others who need to be remembered as well."

# Failing Carillion paid consultants £6.4m

COLLAPSED construction and outsourcing group Carillion paid £6.4 million to advisers the day before pleading with the Government for an emergency loan of £10m.

The Wolverhampton-based business made the payments on January 12, figures from the Official Receiver have revealed. The following day Carillion chairman Philip Green wrote to the Cabinet Office warning the company would fall into insolvency if it could not secure a bail-out. The Government refused on January 14 and Carillion applied for liquidation the next day. Payments included £2.5m to accounting firm Ernst and Young, £1.2m to law firm Slaughter and May, £1m to FTI Consulting.

Chairman of the House of Commons business select committee Rachel Reeves MP said Carillion's board 'ensured that the costs of failure would be picked up by the taxpayer'.

# Drug dealer took wrong turn straight to the police

Report by John Scott

**ERRATIC** driving in Dudley put a drug dealer on the road to a six year prison sentence.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Theodore Harris cut a corner at speed and made a wrong turn into a cul-de-sac where two police officers were making inquiries into an unrelated matter.

A resident told them: 'That car does not belong around here.' The officers went to investigate and saw a throwing axe lying on the front passenger seat.

Mr Antoine Muller, prosecuting, said this prompted a detailed search of the hire car that unearthed more than £2,000 worth of high purity cocaine, cannabis and heroin. A stab proof vest and phones used for drug dealing were also found. Harris was arrested in The Willows, Netherton on November 8.

## Bail

This was seven months after he had been freed on bail pending further inquiries after being stopped at the wheel of another hire car in Weymouth, Dorset. Then the 28-year-old, of no fixed address, had been travelling to Dorchester with another second stab proof vest in the boot. He also had wraps of crack cocaine hidden in his sock and £1,360 cash in his pockets.

Harris had been questioned and released on bail on February 12, the court was told.

The father-of-two was a crack addict with a string of drug offences but had not been accused of dealing before his most recent crimes, said Mr Muller.

Judge Dean Kershaw told the defendant: "No street dealer sells drugs of this purity. You were closer than most to the source of the cocaine.

"The fact you had stab proof vests is indicative of the dangerous nature of what you were up to. Yours was a significant role."

Harris, whose children are one and two-years-old, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to supply in Weymouth on January 27 last year and admitted possessing crack, heroin and cannabis with intent to supply in Netherton on November 8.

# Hero's widow is hit by lighter at match

The widow of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle has said she will never attend another match after being hit by a cigarette lighter during ugly scenes at Saturday's clash with Leicester City at the Hawthorns.

Laraine Astle was not hurt but saw a young boy and a woman injured by missiles during the match, which Albion lost 4-1. It was the first home game Mrs Astle had attended since Astle Day almost three years ago.

She said: "It was awful. I have never seen such venom, nor have I felt so frightened at a game in the 54 years I have followed the Albion.

"I felt like a sitting duck. The young woman sitting behind me was struck by a coin that missed her eye by fractions of an inch. It could have blinded her.

"The little lad sitting near me was hit by the cigarette lighter which then struck me on the shoulder before bouncing onto the hand of my daughter Claire. "The way I feel now I never want to go to another game of football."

Five arrests were made and police investigations continue.

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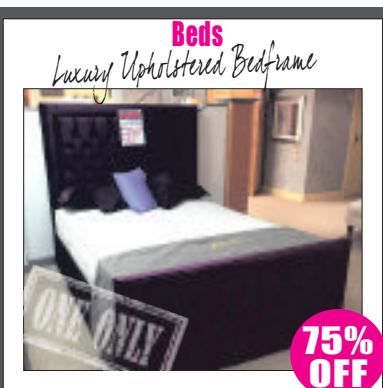
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## 12 Teen launched 'sickening' street attack

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 15, 2018

A 16-YEAR-OLD youth who launched a brutal attack on another young man when two rival gangs clashed in the early hours of the morning in Stourbridge has been locked up for two-and-a-half years.

The victim was punched and kicked and the beating continued as he lay unconscious in the street, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He suffered a fractured cheek bone, broken tooth, fractures of the nose and knuckle together with haemorrhaging to an eye.

The injured party and his friends were heading for a Stourbridge nightclub on January 7 last year celebrating the fact his partner was expecting their first child, explained Mr Nicholas Tatlow, prosecuting.

After leaving the taxi they were confronted in the town centre by another group which included the defendant, from Halesowen, and another man who both targeted the victim.

The attackers wrongly believed the group had been involved in an earlier incident in which one of their friends had been hurt.

The youth pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent and was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders Institution.

Judge Michael Challinor told him: "This was a sustained and sickening assault."

## Leader takes questions in Facebook interview

DUDLEY Council leader Patrick Harley will be holding a live broadcast on social media today (Thursday) taking questions from the public.

Councillor Harley will be appearing in the Facebook Live from 6pm to 7pm. He will be interviewed by deputy leader Councillor David Vickers.

Facebook-users will be able to type their questions into a comments box.

# New Look closure of 60 stores puts hundreds of jobs at risk

## Cyclist takes to the Aston Expressway

A CYCLIST was collared by traffic police after attempting to ride up a busy stretch on a pedal bike.

The biker took to the two-mile stretch on Birmingham's Aston Expressway, also known as the A38M.

Many took to Twitter to criticise the cyclist - describing the biker as an 'idiot' and the incident as 'madness'.

Police officers intervened to speak to the cyclist at the side of the road after spotting him on Thursday night and warned him the busy route was an inappropriate place to be cycling.

Officers admitted they were surprised to come across the cyclist in a potentially dangerous area.

The Central Motorway Policing Group, which patrols the region's major roads, took to Twitter over the incident - joking it may have been the 'most direct route' if not the safest.

A picture posted on the social media site showed traffic officers pulled up next to the cyclist.

The tweet said: "Officers dealing with a pedal cyclist on the A38M. May be the most direct route to his destination but what else can I say."

The Aston Expressway is one of the region's busiest roads and is used by thousands of drivers every day heading between the M6 and the centre of Birmingham.



Not on here you don't - the cyclist on the expressway is stopped by police

NEARLY 1,000 shop workers face the axe after fashion chain New Look revealed plans to shut 60 stores as part of a rescue plan.

It will also see the rent it pays slashed at nearly 400 more shops. It is the latest victim of the slowdown on the high street that has already seen Toys R Us and Maplin collapse into administration, while a string of restaurant chains have announced closures.

With less money being spent on the high street New Look is having a tough time fending off cheaper rivals like Primark and the big supermarkets, as well as online budget fashion stores like Asos.

Primark is doing particularly well and is opening its biggest-ever UK store at Birmingham's Pavilions shopping centre later this year.

### Struggled

But New Look has struggled amid a "challenged trading performance" and has put together a rescue deal that will see it close 60 stores, including its men's shop at Merry Hill, only opened two years ago and one of the first of its new menswear outlets.

It has also secured rent cuts at 393 of its remaining 533 UK shops - about two thirds - which will almost certainly include some of its local stores at Wolverhampton's Mander Centre, Walsall, Cannock, West Bromwich, Dudley High Street and Halesowen, as well as its womenswear shop at Merry Hill and its two stores in Stafford.

The rescue deal is called a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) and New Look says all the stores will remain open until its creditors - banks, suppliers and landlords - vote on the proposal on March 21.

Up to 980 jobs out of its workforce of 15,300 are under threat, although New Look said it would look to redeploy staff where possible.

## Tram stop killer jailed

A MAN has been jailed for life for the manslaughter of father-of-four Anthony Banting, who was stabbed to death at a tram stop in Birmingham. The 27-year-old was handed the sentence last week.

A jury at Birmingham Crown Court heard that on March 31 last year the 57-year-old victim got off the 16:42 tram at Soho Benson Road and was confronted by Alaedien Ahmed, of Eva Road, Winson Green.

Without provocation, Ahmed brought out a knife and stabbed the victim more than 50 times to his head and body. He then walked calmly away from the tram stop. Members of the public called the emergency services and gave first aid to Mr Banting but he died at the scene.

Ahmed, who had denied the attack, must serve a minimum term of 12 years. CCTV and DNA evidence had proved he was the attacker.

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# Historic 18th century church is to be restored to glory

AN historic church in Dudley will undergo a £280,000 revamp. Bottom Church on Castle Street, which is officially known as St Edmund King and Martyr, will have its tower repaired and a new kitchen and toilet installed.

The church site dates back to 1190 but the previous church was demolished after the Civil War and the current building was built in 1724 and is currently listed on the Historic England 'at risk register'.

The project is being funded largely by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), while The Wolfson Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation have also contributed to the cost of restoration.

Church treasurer Jon Harcourt said: "We're delighted that after a great deal of hard work, our lovely church will be restored to its former glory. It has been on Heritage England's 'at risk register' for some time now due to the poor state of the tower roof, damaged stonework, brickwork and failed pointing.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for repairs to be made and for the community to get involved in the church to help provide a place where the history of this part of Dudley can be enjoyed."



Supporters of Dudley's historic Bottom Church celebrate repairs and restoration at the leaky building

# 50,000 seat stadium goal for Wolves boss

WOLVES chairman Jeff Shi has revealed his dream for a 50,000 capacity stadium at Molineux.

A stadium redevelopment had been on hold since 2012 when Wolves were relegated from the Premier League.

Ambitious owners Fosun are planning to expand Molineux if and when the team is established in the top flight.

"Let's try to get to 50,000 as soon as possible," Mr Shi said. "Everyone wants to have a big stadium. It's a step-by-step process and only when we build a strong team and can compete comfortably in the Premier League is the time to expand the stadium."

He said managing director Laurie Dalrymple had said the maximum capacity would be 50,000.

"I even asked him can we have a bigger one like Real Madrid's," he said. "But it's hard because the position of the stadium, the university is behind us. Expansion will be step by step."

# Ketley Hill brings total new homes up to 200

TENANTS are moving into the latest homes to be built as part of Dudley Council's commitment to build hundreds of new council homes.

Nearly eight years ago Dudley Council embarked on a project to build new council homes across the borough, with a further commitment in 2014 to build hundreds of homes within a five year period.

The completion of its latest development on Ketley Hill Road has seen the council reach a total of more than 200 completions since the project began.

The Ketley Hill scheme is a development of 20 homes. It includes a mix of two, three and four bedroom houses and is the first scheme to include a number of two bedroom dormer bungalows.

## Brownfield

The scheme cost in the region of £2.8 million. It has been funded in part by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal to support landowners and developers transform brownfield sites into new communities fit for 21st century living.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "With the completion of this latest development we have now built more than 200 new council homes, which is fantastic news for the borough. "We have demands for all kinds of flats, houses and bungalows but it's great to see this development offer something a little different. This is the first time we've been able to build dormer bungalows and they are a valued addition to our stock, offering flexible and modern living for tenants.

"Our ambition to build council houses doesn't stop here. We remain committed



Councillor Laura Taylor

to building on our successes, with many new council homes due to be built over coming months."

Dr Chris Handy, Black Country LEP Board Member, said: "Funding via the Black Country LEP has enabled investment in new housing and is important part in our transformational journey in the Black Country."

"This project is an important example of councils building again, which is great news. We need our local authorities to build homes as well as other developers if we are to go to build the homes we need for the future."

The homes have been built by local developer Jesup Brothers

Other recent new build schemes are at Davies Avenue, Marley Road, Mars Close and Leabank Road.

# Photographer talks

A CAMERA club is hosting photographer Rosie Hardy for a talk next month. The fashion, portrait and art photographer will be giving a talk entitled 365 Days of Creativity at Hagley Camera Club on April 10 at 8.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley. Entry is open to anyone and tickets are £9 in advance or £10 on the door. All proceeds to the Tim Bacon Foundation supporting cancer charities. See [www.hagleycameraclub.co.uk](http://www.hagleycameraclub.co.uk) website.

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### BEDS

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Souvenir programme from the 1958 tour



The Gaumont where Buddy Holly performed



Buddy Holly on stage at Birmingham Town Hall on March 10, 1958

# Oh Boy! That'll be the day that fans remember

**WHEN** Buddy Holly performed at The Gaumont Cinema in Wolverhampton 60 years ago his career was on the crest of a wave.

Excited fans turned out to see the new American rock 'n' roll phenomenon, still only 21, on his first – and as it tragically turned out, his last – UK tour which took in the city venue.

His performances wowed devotees. In the audience at Birmingham Town Hall three nights afterwards was 12-year-old John Lodge, who later said: "Buddy Holly was the person who made me understand that I could be a musician. He was incredible."

The following decade Lodge rose to fame as bass player with The Moody Blues along with fellow Holly fan Justin Hayward.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the star's visit, tribute act Buddy Holly and the Crickets will perform with the English Rock and

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

Roll Orchestra at 22 venues across the UK – including the Wolverhampton gig – the exact date Holly himself played six decades ago.

Organisers tried to book the same venues on the same dates but the Gaumont, on the corner of Snow Hill and St George's Parade, was knocked down in 1973.

### Meters

The site is now occupied by a Wilkinson's store, so instead the gig was staged last week at the Grand Theatre. There are no known pictures of Holly's visit to Wolverhampton and few accounts of his two shows that day.

But it is known the singer and his band, bassist Joe Maudlin and drummer Jerry Allison, stayed at the Victoria Hotel, now the Britannia, next to the Grand after their second performance.

Maudlin recalled the bedrooms in the Victoria Hotel were large with high ceilings, which meant they were quite cold. He said: "We were continually putting coins into the gas meters for the fires."

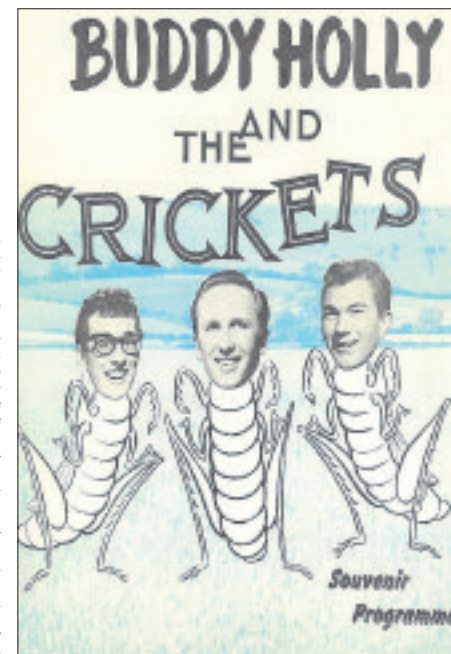
The visit was researched 10 years ago by Walsall historian Ian Payne on the 50th anniversary of the legend's performance in the town. It led to the book, *The Day that Buddy Came to Town*, which is now available in the Wolverhampton Archives.

Mr Payne said: "I wanted to make a lasting tribute, partly because my parents were keen Buddy Holly fans and partly after being inspired by a musical tribute to him several years ago."

"I'm delighted the 60th anniversary is being marked in this way and it's poignant they are keeping to the exact dates he performed on his tour."

"He made a mark on this region and it's clear his fans loved him."

A programme from the 1958 tour reveals Holly's appearance was part of a variety-style show compered by a young Des O'Connor.



Souvenir programme from the 1958 tour

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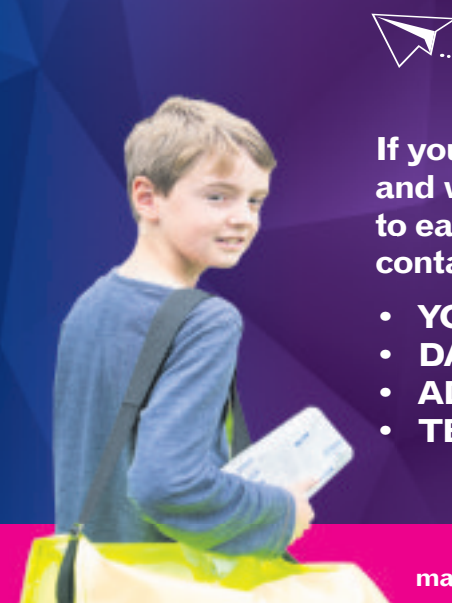
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# Family commended on campaign to find 'Liggy'

THE family of a man found dead seven weeks after he went missing were praised at his inquest for their nationwide appeal to find him.

It came as the tragic details of Matthew Gill's death were revealed at a coroner's court hearing.

The search for Mr Gill, who went missing on October 6 last year, caught attention as Wolves and Albion both joined the appeal and missing posters were distributed across the country.



Matthew Gill

But his family's hopes were shattered when his body was found on land off Prestwood Drive, near Stourton, on November 28.

## Depression

Cannock Coroner's Court heard how the 43-year-old Stourbridge man, who died as a result of hanging, was found by a girl when moving horses on November 28.

The inquest heard that foliage may have obscured the location of the body when police originally scoured the area.

Mr Gill, who was known as Liggy, had been suffering with anxiety and depression.

Police discovered his silver Smart Roadster car near Petzone, off the A449 at Prestwood, after he vanished. His mobile phone had been switched on for a few hours on October 19.

Coroner Andrew Haigh recorded a conclusion of suicide.

He commended Mr Gill's family and friends for their efforts to try to find their loved one.

## Thoroughly successful



Student Luci Gualano prepares to go on stage in the show *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, which was staged at Dudley College last week

TALENTED students brought the roaring 1920s to life as audiences packed Dudley College theatre to see them perform musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

More than 35 musical theatre and technical theatre students performed the show over three nights, to a total audience of around 400.

The show is based on a 1967 film which starred Julie Andrews and James Fox.

Curriculum leader for performing arts, Greg Burrows, said: "It went brilliantly, the performances were excellent. We wanted to challenge our tech students and they lived up to it. They were brilliant. We always choose popular award-winning shows that suit our students."

Students from various disciplines helped, such as graphics students designing posters and media students filmed the show.



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16 **Brum hosts major global esports event**

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 15, 2018

A GLOBAL online esports gaming tournament is coming to Birmingham in a UK first.

ESL (Electronic Sports League) One Dota 2 Major will take place at Arena Birmingham for three days this May. The contest will see 12 world-class Dota 2 teams compete for a prize pool of one million dollars.

Six of the 12 teams will be directly invited to participate, while the other six teams will be selected through online qualifiers open to teams in North America, South America, Europe, the Russian Commonwealth, Southeast Asia and China.

The event will run from May 25 to 27. ESL managing director, James Dean described the news as a dream come true for the ESL UK team and a fantastic win for the UK scene.

"Dota 2 was the very first tournament we ran just after starting up in 2012. We are honoured to have this opportunity and hope to make the Dota 2 community extremely proud.

"We look forward to being an integral part of the success of this event, and to the potential of having ESL One back in Birmingham next year," said James.

Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street, said it was 'tremendous' news for the city to be 'playing host to such a prestigious international esports event'.

"Birmingham is renowned for major sporting events such as the World Indoor Athletics Championships and Commonwealth Games, so we very much look forward to welcoming the Dota 2 community," he added.

**Courier with £650 drugs is sentenced**

A 19-YEAR-OLD drug courier found with £650 worth of heroin and crack cocaine street deals has been given a suspended custodial sentence. Police swooped on Chelsea Avenue, Oldbury after reports of suspicious behaviour during the afternoon of February 22 last year, a judge heard.

They found a Ford Focus with three people in it parked behind bungalows, Mr Timothy Sapwell, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court. Rafiq Bogle-Fredricks was sitting in the rear of the car with a knife lying in the footwell. He was taken away for a strip search during which a large package was found. It contained 45 £10 wraps of crack cocaine and a further 20 containing heroin.

Miss Jennifer Josephs, defending, said: "He was a courier and not a dealer. He was holding the drugs for somebody else."

Bogle-Fredricks of Meeting Street, Wednesbury, admitted possession of crack cocaine and heroin with intent to supply and was given 18 months detention in a young offenders' institution suspended for 18 months with 150 hours unpaid work, a two month night time curfew and £500 costs.

**Selfridges goes green for week**



**The St Patrick's Day colours at the store**  
BIRMINGHAM'S iconic Selfridges building has turned green to mark St Patrick's Day. The store has taken on the new look as part of celebrations in the city and will run until Sunday. It is the fourth year running the store has turned emerald, but it will be the first time it has remained in place for a whole week.

General manager Sam Watts said: "Birmingham has a fantastic Irish community and we're excited to join in the St. Patrick's Day festivities. We wanted to make sure we incorporated both the parade and the day itself."

**Mine of information for actors at memorial**



Actors Chad Dent, Lucy Styles and Max Darknell

ACTORS from a Sandwell amateur dramatics society have been looking back at an infamous mining disaster which claimed the lives of 26 workers, in preparation for their next production.

Sunday, March 4, marked the 110th anniversary of the Hamstead mining disaster where, in 1908, a major fire in the downcast shaft of the Hamstead Colliery proved deadly.

Members of multi award-winning Charlemont Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) have been busy researching the history of local mining communities for their upcoming production of John Godber's Salt of the Earth, which will be performed from Wednesday, May

2 to Saturday, May 5. Performances take place at the theatre at West Bromwich Community Centre, Gayton Road, West Bromwich and actors from the society, Chad Dent, Lucy Styles and Max Darknell took the opportunity to visit the memorial of the 1908 disaster.

The memorial is situated in the centre of Hamstead village, which remains a close-knit community, much like the Yorkshire setting for Godber's play.

Salt of the Earth won an Edinburgh Fringe award for the playwright in 1988, and follows the lives of the fictional Parker sisters, May and Annie over four decades from 1947 right up until 1988.

Chairman, David Hill said: "John Godber's drama is a fine mixture of comedy and tragedy interwoven with songs from the period by artists such as Bing Crosby, Vera Lynn, Dean Martin and even David Bowie. The cast have had great fun learning more about miners, the intricacies of the Yorkshire accent and even how to waltz."

If you would like to see the production, tickets are £8 each and are available to buy from the CADS ticket hotline on 0121 357 4169, email hilld28@sky.com. For more information go to the website thecads.weebly.com.

There is also a link there to the Hamstead Miners Memorial Trust website.

**Divine milestone for parish church in 125th anniversary**

Report by Jack Averty

**AN historic Black Country parish is celebrating its 125th anniversary later this year.**

The Parish of St. Philip Neri, on Messenger Road in Smethwick, turns 125 on June 10.

The parish was founded in 1863 but it wasn't until 1893 when Charles Rhyder came to Smethwick that the main structure of the present church was built.

To celebrate the milestone the parish is inviting anyone with memories of the church or school to attend a special coffee afternoon on Saturday at the parish centre on Watt Street.

The church is especially keen to see and hear from people who have old photos, programmes or memories and/or who may be able to help identify people or events in photos it has.

**Archbishop**

It will then be using some of these memories to create a display and commemorative booklet in preparation for a celebration mass on Sunday June 10. The mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley and the parish hopes that as many past parishioners, pupils and staff from the school as well as people who were baptised or married at the church will attend.

A spokesman for the parish said: "The Catholic network being as strong as it is, we kindly ask that people pass on this message to anyone they know who may have past connections with the church. If you have never been to this beautiful church which has strong connections with Blessed (Cardinal) John Henry Newman and the hymn writer Edward Caswall, you are also warmly invited to the coffee afternoon on March 17 as well as the celebration mass on June 10."

For more information or, if you have any photos or documents or memories connected with the church, please contact 0121 558 1065 or stphilipsmethwick@googlemail.co.uk, or visit www.stphilipsparish.co.uk



The church today.



Members of the congregation during the church's centenary mass



Youngsters take first communion, from some years ago

**Gang hunted after ram raid at jewellers**

ARMED raiders are being hunted after a terrifying ram raid on a shop where the gang escaped with a haul of gold jewellery.

A police officer was also recovering after being hurt during the raid where a white flat-bed lorry was used to smash through the front window of Jai Jewellers in Cape Hill, Smethwick at around 6.20pm last Friday.

Up to five masked and hooded men carrying hammers and other weapons burst into the premises, threatening frightened staff who hid in the back as the intruders shattered display cabinets and stole the contents.

Dramatic video footage of the incident shows a police patrol car arriving at the scene in the middle of the raid and one of its crew apparently trying to break the window of the getaway car parked nearby.

The driver of the black Audi saloon is then seen accelerating away before suddenly braking and throwing the car into reverse, narrowly missing the officer who has to jump out of the way.

Three members of the gang then emerge from the jewellers carrying bags of stolen property and jump into the car whose driver is seen hurling bricks at the police officer and his colleague.

The getaway car then speeds off moments



The jewellers store in Smethwick

before two more police cars arrive at the scene with lights flashing. Staff at the shop were unavailable for comment at the weekend.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Caroline Schubert confirmed: "The men took gold from the shop and attacked two police officers by throwing bricks. They then made off at speed in a waiting black Audi saloon car that headed onto Claremont Road.

"One of the officers needed to be taken to



Part of the footage after the police arrive

hospital for treatment to minor facial injuries." Superintendent Richard Youds, from Sandwell Neighbourhood Policing Unit, added: "The behaviour of these men showed that they were prepared to use considerable violence, including attacking a police officer and a police car. Thankfully nobody was seriously hurt and the officer is today recovering at home from his injuries having been treated in hospital.

"We are appealing for anyone with informa-



The raiders run towards the waiting Audi

tion to come forward." Callers can ring police on 101 giving crime reference 20SW/54603T/18 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The ram raid was remarkably similar to another on the same store in February last year when crooks struck at around 6pm on a Friday evening but they left empty handed after driving a BMW into the shop front. One man was arrested inside the jewellers and nothing was taken.

# Radzi and co step up for Sport Relief at park

**WOLVERHAMPTON'S** Blue Peter presenter Radzi Chinyanganya was in Baggeridge Country Park for the latest stop on his mammoth sporting challenge.

Radzi, who also recently among the BBC team presenting the Winter Olympics in South Korea, returned to his home patch with fellow presenter Lindsey Russell for their Sport Relief challenge.

Called Mile-a-Thon it will see them run 26 individual miles with 26 schools across the country in four days.

They were joined by youngsters from Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club at Baggeridge, near Sedgley.

Earlier in the day the pair did three laps of Molineux with pupils from Westcroft School and St Andrew's Primary School.

## Healthy

The are hoping to achieve more than one million steps by asking children to complete their own mile by running, walking or riding and then recording it on the Blue Peter website.

All the steps will be added up and it will be revealed whether they achieved the aim at 5.30pm next Thursday, March 22, for Blue Peter's Sport Relief special on CBBC.

It is all to encourage school children to stay fit and health by getting into the habit of regularly walking a mile a day.

The challenge was due to end in Oxford where the team were to cross the finish line where Sir Roger Bannister, who died on March 3, broke the four-minute mile back in 1954.

Radzi, who has been part of the Blue Peter team since 2013, said: "This



Radzi Chinyanganya and Lindsey Russell at Baggeridge with Sam Thurstfield, Maisie Fletcher, Emma Seeney, Logan Shields and Ella Green



Kitted out for adventure high up in the trees at Baggeridge Country Park

challenge is not about us, it is about supporting a charity and getting people involved and active. We wanted to be part of Sport Relief because this challenge is all about the steps – so anyone can get involved.

"I did not like Cross Country running when I was at school but this is

a great challenge to get involved in as it is one mile and you can take it at your own pace and you can do it on a scooter or you can cycle.

"We will be completing 26.2 miles over the four days – a full marathon – visiting a number of schools along the way."

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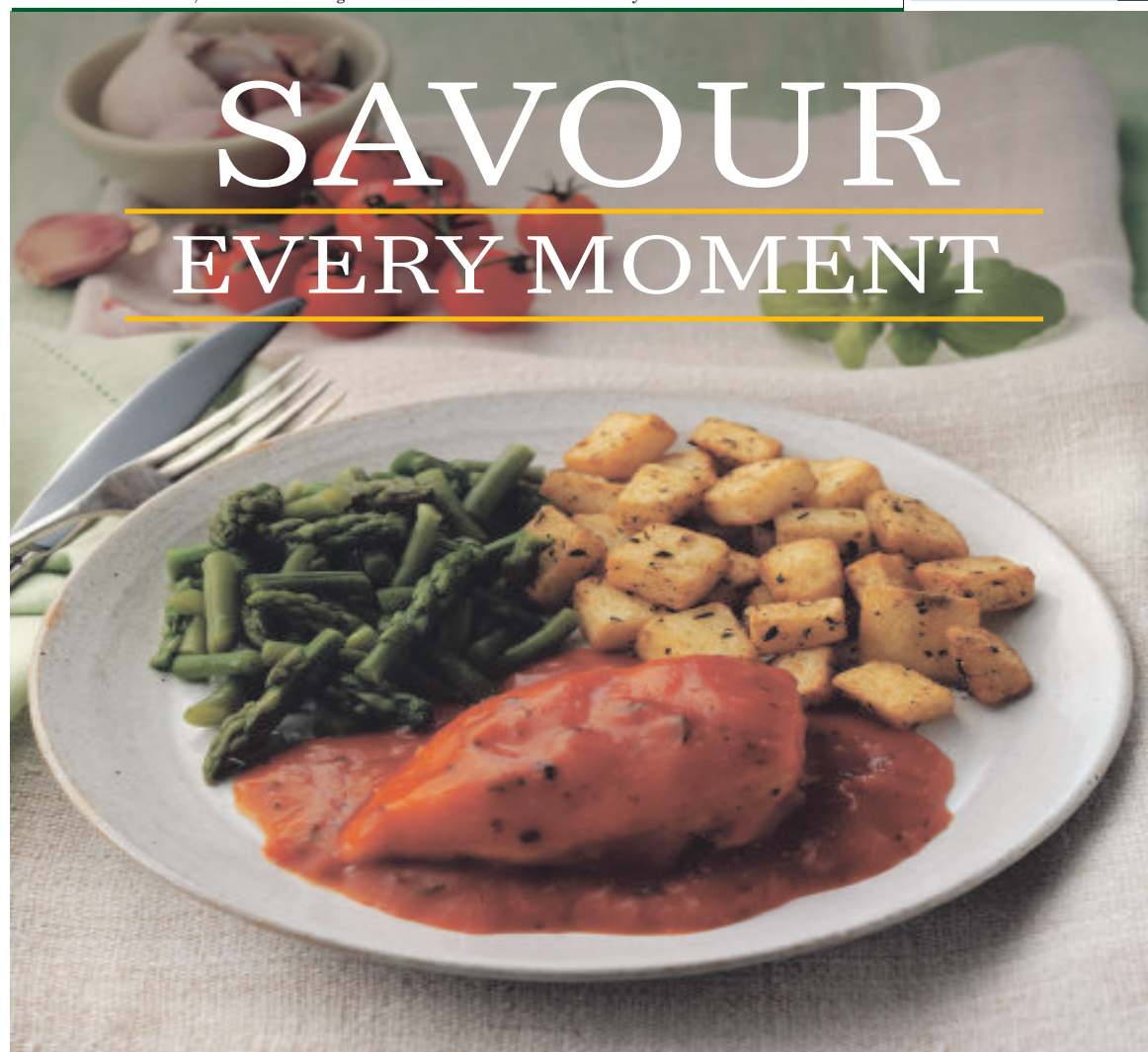
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# 18 Firefighters rescue man and his dog

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 15, 2018

A MAN was saved in the nick of time by firefighters as a blaze swept his home in Rowley Regis at the weekend.

He had woken in the early hours to find his bedroom filled with choking smoke at the mid-terrace property in Bluestone Walk and managed to raise the alarm by phone before he was overcome by fumes.

A crew from Oldbury fire station were on the scene within five minutes and two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus found him lying unconscious on the upstairs landing.

The man, who has not been named, was carried outside and revived with oxygen before paramedics arrived to take over his care. Firefighters also saved his Staffordshire Bull Terrier from the burning property.

## Guest ales at festival

A BLACK Country brewery is planning a four-day spring beer festival featuring its own brews and guest beers too.

The event will be held at Fixed Wheel Brewery on the Long Lane Trading Estate, Blackheath, and will run from March 29 to April 1.

There will also be live music as part of the festival highlighting the best local ales.

## FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS AREA

# Football fun day has Goals for heart charity

A FOOTBALL fun day will take place in Blackheath in memory of two men who died of heart attacks.

Brothers Gurcharan and Herjinder Bhujhangy will be hosting the event for the sixth year running on June 3 to raise money for charity British Heart Foundation.

Their father Dalbir Khanpur Bhujhangy – who was part of the UK's longest running bhangra group – died in 2008 at the age 59, and friend Harman Dhami suffered the same fate aged only 37.

Gurcharan, aged 47, said it was devastating to lose his father, followed shortly by his good friend.

He said: "We wanted to raise awareness of the fantastic work the British Heart Foundation do through a charity five-a-side football tournament."

"Our father was Dalbir Khanpur, from the legendary Bhujhangy Group. They have an impressive catalogue to their name having appeared in the Guinness World Book of Records in 2005 for being the pioneers of bhangra music in the UK since 1967. Our father always had a smile on his face and enjoyed performing live music."

By Megan Archer

Finance worker Gurchara, who works in Dudley and lives in Halesowen, is inviting teams of all ages and abilities to sign up for the event at Goals Blackheath. It will run from 11.30am to 5pm and will see children and adults play football, enjoy food and take part in a charity raffle.

Adult teams cost £70 and children's teams – from under eights to under 16s – cost £30, with a maximum of seven per team. Anyone wishing to submit a team must do so by May 21. Call Goals on 0121 561 3000 or Gurcharan on 07762 521 584.

Bhujhangy Group is one of the UK's best known bhangra acts, founded in Smethwick in the '60s by Dalbir and brother Balbir.



Food for thought – Blake, six, and Dawson, two, enjoy breakfast at Blackheath Library

## Children book place at breakfast

HUNDREDS of children had breakfast in their local library over half-term as part of the Cereal Readers scheme.

Children at Blackheath Library tucked into their breakfast and then took part in activities provided by library volunteers and the Murray Hall Trust. The scheme has also run at libraries in Tipton, Oldbury and West Bromwich.

Cereal Readers is a library initiative in which children and their parents are invited to share a bowl of cereal and a glass of fruit juice as they take part in book-related activities at the library during school holidays.

All the refreshments have been provided by local supermarkets and other community groups and all the sessions are run by library volunteers and it has proven popular with local families.

## Donation is boost for youth group

SHELL Corner Youth Company has received £1,000 funding from local house-builder, CALA Homes, towards its community support programme.

The donation has been made as part of the house-builder's bursary scheme.

Founded in 2011, Shell Corner Youth Company provides youth and family support activities, trips and summer schemes to help disadvantaged families in the surrounding area.

The funding has already contributed towards a series of photography workshops and a community fund day for group members.

The CALA Community Bursary was launched in April 2017 and invited local charities, organisations and groups to apply for help to fund projects which make a vital difference in and around their communities.

Bryan Kelsey, project manager at Shell Corner Youth Company, said: "We are pleased to have received this funding as part of CALA Homes' Community Bursary scheme. As an organisation run solely by volunteers, donations are extremely important and will enable us to engage with more families."

## Choral concert

STAINER'S Crucifixion will be sung by the choir of St Paul's Church in Blackheath to mark Good Friday.

Admission is free for the performance at the Long Lane church at 7.30pm on March 30.

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# Could you be toying with salesroom success?

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



I'VE written in this column before about vintage toys but as we have a number coming up in our next sale I thought we could re-visit the subject to look at what can affect their value.

It's all down to condition and how unusual or appealing the toys are, those having been kept in their original packaging or boxes netting the best prices at auction.

And, as with all vintage items, collectors have their current favourites - at present models relating to all of the Gerry Anderson TV series are very much sought after.

Thunderbirds, Stingray, Joe 90, Captain Scarlet, Fireball XL5 models are all very collectable and many can be found still in their boxes and in excellent condition.

You can find anything from Lady Penelope's lovely pink car to Captain Scarlet's pursuit vehicle and if you have any models relating to these hugely popular series it is well worth getting them valued for potential sale.

In the April auction we have a number of vintage model cars and some interesting model railway pieces - plus Action Man and a huge collection of Sindy items.

### Gripping

Action Man is the version with gripping hands and rather scary moveable eyes and he comes with a nice selection of clothing and equipment.

The Sindy range is extensive, we've got everything from her kitchen to her horse and most items are nicely packaged in their original boxes.

There are also some puppets and a wonderful selection of model soldiers, always a collector's favourite.

It's sometimes quite sad to be selling toys that have plainly not been played with, some in their original packaging have clearly never been used, but that pristine condition does make them much more saleable.

So have a look around to see what vintage toys may be lurking within your home and bring them in for valuation - they may well be worth selling!

**\*The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectibles will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, April 3, from 10.30am.**

Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at [www.perryandphillips.co.uk](http://www.perryandphillips.co.uk). Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

**\*Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

**\*A new promotional film about Perry and Phillips Auctioneers can be found on our website - and for the very first time ever we will be offering a video preview! Again, this will be on our website.**



# Our nightwear is becoming more fashionable



Nightwear can be a fashion statement

HOW many of you change into your PJs when you get home from work or spend a whole day at the weekend in your comfy, under a blanket watching films?

Nightwear, leisurewear and loungewear is so popular now and the shops are full of so much choice, it is no wonder we often spot someone in their pink pyjamas or superman onesie and slippers in the supermarket or collecting the children from school.

I am soon to be staying in a country cottage for the weekend for a friend's hen party. Dress code for Friday night is PJs and we all have the same matching set, apart from the bride-to-be who has personalised shorts and T-shirt.

We will plod around in complete comfort, in our luxury surroundings, prosecco in hand and the overnight case packed with the most comfortable clothing I can find.

Most of the top designers have a range of nightwear, stylish cotton or silk printed and woven garments for men and women, branding clearly seen on logoed elastics, ribbons and elaborate embroidery, comfort a priority and a high price tag.

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



It is only in recent years we have seen the emergence of loungewear, "pyjamas to be seen in" ([www.jackwills.com](http://www.jackwills.com))

Some of the fabrics are more sportswear than nightwear but their technical abilities practical for a good nights sleep. Supersoft polyester mesh and four-way stretch leggings allow for movement. There are garments to help night sweats in menopausal women ([www.eesteemmanchester.com](http://www.eesteemmanchester.com)), the wicking fabrics used in our top athletes clothing, wicking away perspiration in a different type of product.

Children can go off to bed dressed as a super hero or Disney princess ([www.disney-store.co.uk](http://www.disney-store.co.uk)) and birthdays involve a pyjama party sleep over, babies sleep soundly in cute animal prints and sleeping bags with shoulder straps.

The choice of fleece dressing gown is almost

overwhelming, short, long, hooded, buttoned, super soft, the list goes on and then there is the onesie in lightweight jersey, sweat shirt-ing or fur fabric.

In the 1940s and 1950s movie starlets, on screen, wore opulent, elegant floating satin nightdresses and gowns, trimmed with feathers, frills and lace.

They wore full make up and their hair was perfect.

We have recently seen the heeled and jewelled fluffy mules seen in these films revisited as a trend item. In fact, the reality was hair nets to keep curls in place, hand knitted bed jackets, socks and a buttoned front full-length cotton night gown.

We wear slippers that look like Uggs, Mahabis with removable outdoor soles and Crocs. As time moves on our nightwear becomes more accepted during the day.

Will there be a time we can wear it to work as well?

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Eating more turmeric can ward off disease and boost your mood



Turmeric in its natural form - it is usually ground into a powder

# Why therapeutic turmeric really is the spice of life



It can be added to soups and curries

**SPICY, golden and warm in flavour, turmeric's therapeutic properties can ward off flu and boost your mood.**

Like avocados, kale and chia seeds before it, turmeric is one of those 'cure-all' ingredients that seems to have blown up out of nowhere.

Scroll through any millennial's Instagram feed and you'll likely spot a few riffs on the golden wonder spice: turmeric lattes, spicy rice, aromatic golden soup. According to a recent report by Waitrose, it's even overtaken cinnamon as the most popular spice in our kitchen cupboards, while Google searches for it are up 75 per cent in the last five years.

This potent plant of the ginger family grows wild in the forests of Southeast Asia, and has long been a staple in Pakistani, Indian, Persian and Thai diets.

But is it just a fad or are there actual benefits to the wonder spice? Here, we've found some science-backed reasons why you should tap into its healing potential.

### IT DECREASES INFLAMMATION

We're all probably a little too familiar with joint pain, with arthritis affecting about 10 million people in the UK. Researchers have found that curcumin, the bright yellow

### Report by Liz Connor

chemical produced by turmeric, is capable of interacting with a variety of molecules involved in inflammation, easing swelling, aches and pains in the joints and muscles. In fact, a study published in the National Center for Biotechnology Information found that curcumin may be just as effective as aspirin and ibuprofen at suppressing the body's inflammatory response.

### IT HAS ANTIOXIDANT EFFECTS

Antioxidants are pretty important substances; they protect your cells against the effects of free radicals - unpaired electrons that scavenge the body to seek out other electrons so they can become a pair. The damage caused by free radicals has been linked to premature ageing, a host of neurodegenerative diseases, and even cancer. As well as bolstering the body's natural antioxidant function by increasing glutathione levels, studies have found curcumin's molecular structure can even neutralise harmful free radicals in the body.

### IT CAN KEEP THE HEART HEALTHY

Heart and circulatory disease causes more than a quarter of all deaths in the UK; that's nearly 160,000 deaths each year at an average of one death every three minutes. Multiple studies have found that the

yellow pigment in turmeric root can help to maintain the function of the interior lining of your blood vessels. One study published in the Nutrition Research journal in 2012 even found that curcumin may be as effective in improving vascular function in post-menopausal women as a moderate exercise routine.

### IT REDUCES THE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

As well as being good for your heart and your joints, turmeric could also help to improve your mood. Research has shown that curcumin has a similar effect as antidepressants on patients suffering from depression, mood swings and anxiety, and studies on mice found that daily doses of turmeric can even increase the amount of happy hormones (serotonin and dopamine) in the brain.

### IT BOOSTS IMMUNITY

Thanks to its lipopolysaccharide content, turmeric can help stimulate the body's immune system, helping you to avoid cold, flu and coughs. Its antibacterial, antiviral and anti-fungal agents also help to bolster immunity during the winter months. With winter clinging on a little longer than usual this year, try switching your morning coffee for a turmeric tea, to help give your immune system an extra boost.

# Take a peaky at this booming business

A GROWING Black Country brewery and pub chain is opening its first bar in Birmingham.

Lye-based Sadler's Ales is creating up to eight jobs at the Sadler's Tap Room in Hagley Road West, Quinton.

Sadler's managing director Chris Sadler said that the former shop premises were being refurbished ready for opening this spring.

The new bar will offer a full range of the beers produced at the company's brewery on Conyers Trading Estate in Station Drive and will offer burgers and street food.

"We just received the keys. We are delighted to be bringing Sadler's in to Birmingham," said Mr Sadler.

It follows the recent opening of a Sadler's Peaky Blinder bar at the Genting Arena, NEC, which will be open for major concerts selling Sadler's Peaky Blinders beers. "It will open for concerts that attract a more adult audience," said Mr Sadler.

"By the end of the year we should have two more open following on from Quinton," he added.

The business dates from 1900 and also has The Windsor Castle pub in Lye, Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar above the brewery, plus a pub and restaurant in Southampton.

An extension to the brewery, which will see production quadrupled, is nearly complete.

Mr Sadler said that four new staff had already been taken on ahead of the opening and ramping up of production of Sadler's growing range of keg and bottles ales.

Sadler's Ales, which also produces Peaky Blinders gin, whiskey and rum, has also won a distribution deal in Romania.

The company has also been praised by Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion Baroness Fairhead, who said: "Sadler's Ales are a great example of a local business which is seizing global opportunities."



Sales director Ian King and managing director Chris Sadler, right, toast the success of Sadler's Ales

# Figures show many elderly patients still discharged at night

ALMOST 1,800 pensioners across the Black Country were discharged from hospital overnight with many left to make their way home during the hours of darkness.

The figures show that the practice, criticised by a former NHS England boss, continues despite fears it could be dangerous for vulnerable elderly people. A substantial number of those patients were aged 85 or older.

The numbers cover patients aged 65 or above who were discharged from medical wards between the hours of 10pm and 6am.

In April 2012, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, then NHS England medical director, called on hospitals to cut down on overnight discharges following a series of cases where vulnerable patients had been left stranded. Four years ago the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee said discharges between 11pm and 6am had led to deaths.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust discharged the highest number of elderly patients during the time period - 763, including 153 who were in the higher age bracket. They said most were either sent home, or to another NHS hospital ward. The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust released 430 pensioners in the middle of the night, among them 111 aged over 85.

# New Street is driving demand for homes

BIRMINGHAM New Street train station has seen a 33 per cent rise in passengers in the past five years and it is driving demand for high quality new homes in nearby areas.

As a result of the increase in rail users using the station, property prices within 2km of New Street have increased by 44 per cent over the past five years, according to real estate advisor Savills.

The 'Market in Minutes: New homes and infrastructure' reports indicates that this is also rippling out into markets in the surrounding areas with Rugby, Coventry and Long Buckby all seeing a rise in commuters of 18 per cent, while house prices have increased by 35 per cent, 46 per cent and 67 per cent respectively.

## Enhanced

Joe Shorney, head of residential development sales at Savills in the Midlands, based in Birmingham, said: "Transport and enhanced connectivity has a key role to play in the delivery of new homes and can fuel residential demand and consequently aid house price growth."

"Ahead of HS2 at Curzon Street station, there has been significant investment in the regeneration of Birmingham city centre. This has also triggered commercial investment from companies choosing to relocate to the Midlands such as Deutsche Bank and HSBC, and has helped to drive residential demand and subsequent house price growth."

## By John Corser

"The fundamentals for the Midlands remain strong with the city continuing to reposition itself nationally as a major regional centre with a dramatically enhanced profile. The improved connectivity derived from Midlands Metro and HS2 is driving demand, bringing more people to Birmingham."

It is anticipated that the Westside extension of the tram network, due to open in 2021, will also have an impact on residential house price growth.

"We would expect to see a positive impact on residential prices along the route together with a knock on effect for the wider property market, including an uplift in demand for retail and office space. The route will travel past HSBC's new offices at Arena Central and the PwC offices in Paradise Birmingham. Connectivity will make opportunities along this route attractive for developers of new homes," explained Mr Shorney.

# Bid to trace family

THE coroner's office is appealing for help in tracing family members of a man found dead in Halesowen.

The body of Justin Allan Roberts, aged 46, was discovered at an address in Spiral Close on February 20. His date of birth was November 24, 1971. Anyone related or with a connection to Mr Roberts is asked to contact Wendy Plummer at Black Country Coroners Court, Jack Judge House, Halesowen Street, Oldbury or call her on 0121 569 6990.

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# Tasks lie in wait to help wake garden for spring

**GREEN-FINGERED** Brits are being urged to set their seasonal alarm clocks and use the last few days of winter as the perfect opportunity to begin waking up their garden.

The horticulture experts at BillyOh.com said now is the perfect time to begin gently awakening your garden from its winter slumber and have compiled some top tips to help ambitious gardeners embark on a new growing adventure.

Before plant enthusiasts are able to jump into placing new flowers and shrubs, a number of general yard tasks must be undertaken to ensure gardens are prepped, organised and equipped to make the most of the blooming season.

From cleaning up your garden tools and tracking down pesky pests to pruning shrubs and trees and making a detailed plan for planting, these are the jobs you should be undertaking now in order to enjoy a successful and flourishing garden come spring.

A spokesman for BillyOh.com said: "If you're a gardening novice or if you're simply just itching to get started on your garden this year, you might think that you can just leave it 'til the last minute before rushing in to get everything done while in the throes of spring."

"But Rome wasn't built in a day, and there are certain preparations you should be making now in order to really get the most out of your garden during blooming season."

"As well as detailing some of the key jobs you should be starting as spring rolls around, we've also included a list of plants you should consider planting this year to create the ultimate garden haven."

## YARD TASKS

### 1. Clean up your yard or garden

Spend some time doing some general cleaning and tidying jobs by removing leaves and debris from your lawn, taking note of areas that need reseeded. If you have perennials from last year, cut down foliage and reserve it for your compost bin. Divide clumped perennials for later replanting or sharing with friends. You can also start fixing fences, gates and trellis so you'll have more time focusing on your plants after tidying up.



### 2. Wash and polish your garden tools

Your tools will likely need some TLC after months of non-use and hiding in the garden shed or basement. Shears and hand pruners may have accumulated dirt that, if left unwashed, could infect your newly-pruned plants. Almost all tools are easier to work with when cleaned and sharpened so take the time to hone those spades, trowels and hoes with a file and apply lubricating oil.

### 3. Prune shrubs and trees

If you haven't got around to pruning your trees before or during winter, now is the best time to do so. Remove damaged, dead and diseased branches, but take note whether a certain plant is best pruned before spring growth or right after flowering.

Pruning fruit trees is best done in late winter or early spring. Also take time to thin dead foliage now before new growth begins and thinning becomes too difficult.

### 4. Track down garden pests

Slugs, snails, aphids and larvae may have been sheltering in the crowns or flip sides of your plants for the winter. Go after these hibernating pests before putting in new plants. There's a slew of pest control materials and methods to choose from but it's best to start with more natural means like homemade remedies or beneficial insects that will prey on the harmful ones.

### 5. Prepare the beds and reinvigorate the soil

It's a lot easier to pull out weeds now so go through it and rake the mulch that remained on the bed over the winter. But how will you know if your soil is ready for gardening since winter weather takes a hard toll on garden soil? An easy guide is to grab a handful of soil, squeeze it tightly, then open your fist. The soil should crumble instead of forming clumps. Take a soil test for pH level if necessary and enrich accordingly – add dolomitic lime to raise pH or sulphur to lower pH. Add in some compost or well-rotted manure too, using a spading fork to mix in everything perfectly well.

# Be smart and think twice over new meters



Act smart – and do your research on the new meters

HOUSEHOLDERS should think twice before rushing in to have a new smart meter installed in their home.

That's the advice from green energy expert Ron Fox who said the main disadvantage is that many of them will stop working if residents, wanting to reduce their bills, swap suppliers.

He said there were many advantages as they are internet-connected devices puts consumers in charge of their energy use by displaying the amount and cost of fuel usage.

Also they put a stop to estimated bills by sending automatic bills to the energy supplier and are designed to save the average householder £47 a year.

"But that major problem of losing the smart functionality outweighs the advantages and people should reject the first generation meters and wait for the technology to improve," said Mr Fox.

The trouble is that the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (Smets 2), the most advanced meters, have been delayed by technical issues and energy companies have been told to continue installing older Smets 1 devices as the Government wants to put 50 million meters in by 2020 in an £11 billion initiative.

Mr Fox said: "Don't be pressurized into having a smart meter."

"You can reject having one, but the problem comes when your old meter is broken and needs replacing."

"Then the supplier is allowed to install a smart meter in "dumb" mode which means it works like the traditional, non-smart gas and electricity me-

ters without the latest technology, but you can still change energy supplier."

Already 8.6 million smart meters have been installed in the UK but \$66,000 of them are now working on "dumb" mode only.

However, the consumer body Which? said 40 per cent of people with a smart meter are dissatisfied with it.

Another serious worry is that some experts fear smart meters may be hacked and energy supplies could be disrupted in a terrorist attack.

Government research has shown that up to six million homes are thinking of rejecting them because of hacking and data protection fears.

## Spiralling

Meanwhile, energy companies are concerned with the spiralling costs of the project and some may use it as an excuse to put up prices for consumers.

Now a Government spokesperson is reported to have promised that the Smets 1 meters will be upgraded by the end of this year and will work efficiently regardless of the energy provider and that Smets 2 will soon be ready to install.

"The sooner the technology is improved the better," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd at Keele, Staffordshire. "You don't buy modern gadgets and expect to have to replace them after a few months."

"But that is what is happening with these smart meters if you change supplier. Householders should expect them to be installed properly and work consistently whichever energy company they use."

# List of chores is growing as Beast takes its leave

## ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



**ALTHOUGH** we have passed the first meteorological day of spring the recent icy blast brought by the so-called "Beast from the East" might have temporarily fooled us into thinking otherwise.

Yet the snow and sub-zero temperatures have provided only a brief reprieve to the gardener. The list of gardening jobs will lengthen as the days stretch out and it is important to get on top of them.

It is time to order or buy your seed potatoes right away as they will need time to chit before they are planted out. It doesn't really matter how you do this and I prefer to put them in egg boxes on a window ledge. It is important to keep the frost away from earlies which can be planted out by the end of the month so cover any shoots with fleece or straw.

Onions and shallots can also be planted out in a sunny well drained spot. Again, this should be done towards the back end of the month when temperatures are potentially going to have risen more evenly. The young sets should be buried up to their necks and protected from marauding birds especially pigeons which like to pull them up.

Finish your pruning now if you haven't done it already. As temperatures rise so does the sap and any shrubs or climbers such as roses, Buddleja, and summer flowering clematis will waste valuable energy putting out new growth only for you to snip it off later.

It is also getting to the end of the time when deciduous or evergreen hedges should be cut as birds will be thinking of nesting. More delicate evergreens like box can be held over until April as they can struggle to recover from pruning if the weather is too cold.

Shrubs which flower in winter or early spring and summer (i.e. before June) such as winter Jasmine, Deutzia or Forsythia should have the old growth thinned by a third. This is because they flower on wood grown the previous season. Leave on enough older growth to provide flowers for this year while allowing new growth to take the place of the old and give flowers for next year.

Slugs and snails will be waiting to take advantage of the new growth so don't delay



Finish your pruning now if you haven't done so already, Ross advises



Plant shallots, onions and potatoes in a sunny and well drained spot



Chit seed potatoes before planting them

in using control measures though apply them judiciously in order to avoid harming wildlife and especially bird life.

Many will also have been looking covetously at the lawn as a fresh cut can do so much to tidy up a garden. It is important not to do more harm than good so choose

a dry day and set your blades high to make the first cut. You are aiming to gently encourage the sward to thicken up rather than beating it into submission. Never remove more than a quarter of the total length of the grass blades. For anybody wishing to start a new lawn the ground should be pre-

pared now by digging and forking over to reduce the soil to a fine tilth. Hold off laying turf if you can or sowing seed as germination will be better once the soil temperature has risen more consistently above 6C.

All in all there is plenty to get on with though March should be welcomed by all.



## FIVE MINUTES WITH THE STRANGLERS INSIDE

**THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES**

## Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

### Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

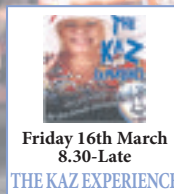
A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

Lots of exciting upcoming entertainment coming up throughout March. Check out their advert for up to date times and acts coming up.

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# They're still just like nothing on Earth

**P**unk icons The Stranglers are back on the road following the sell-out success of last year's Black and White Tour. They are taking their Classic Collection around the UK, to coincide with the planned re-release of the entire Stranglers studio album catalogue from 1977-82.

Fans can look forward to a slew of greatest hits when the band headline Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday, March 17. It's a show that The Stranglers are also looking forward to.

Bassist Jean-Jacques Burnel says: "We've had some amazing times in the Black Country and Birmingham and around and about. We always have a great time when we're on the road and it's always sold out when we play in Brum. Our drummer, Jim, lives in that neck of the woods.

"We've got a very loyal audience but there's also a sense of renewal of the audience. People who've grown up with us and remember times past are still there.

"They remember the problems of us being a young punk band. It seems to be that for some reason a lot of teenagers are also starting to check us out over the past 10 years. You know, with the last three albums, people have really picked up on us again.

"Also, all the bad press that we had all those years ago seems to be a badge of honour because everything is so cynical and phoney these days. All the bad times are now a badge of honour. It's funny. We were the threat to western civilisation and morality and now we're seen as a healthy thing because the music scene is all so sterile."

Drawing from an expansive and impressive catalogue that spans some 40 years, The Stranglers will enthrall audiences with an exciting mix of material, all bearing the distinctive signature style of this most enduring of British bands; driving rhythms, anthemic melodies, quirky time signatures and occasional dark humour, held together by those trademark rumbling bass lines and swirling keyboards.

## WAVE

The Stranglers are riding high on the crest of a resurgent wave of popularity. They continue to out-rock many on the live circuit, including much younger bands, and their existing large and loyal fan base has swelled in recent years as new converts join the ranks.

With record-breaking, sell-out shows and festival appearances throughout the UK and the rest of the world, public demand to hear and see the group has never been so high; true testament to their considerable musical talent and the enduring quality of their songs.

JJ says it's been a struggle and they're thrilled to be winning the war.

"Well, we've been used to wars from day one. We didn't have a ready-made audience in the very early days. Even when we were playing pubs we were having confrontations with the landlord calling the police to pull the plug.

"In the very early days, people were also getting offended by what we were playing. We had people try to get on stage and whack us. We had, once, an agent who booked us for one show. They booked us for a Young Conservatives night in Purley, in South London.

"We were dressed in rags and tatters and there were all these people in smoking jackets and

No more heroes – The Stranglers are heading to Birmingham



suits and bow ties. It was evidently obvious that we weren't going to get on with each other.

"Jet went on stage and said you're not going to like us and there was a bit of language. So one guy came up on stage with a bow tie but we kicked him off stage and 400 people left the hall, leaving five who thought we were brilliant. I think we did play for the five to get our fee."

JJ is pleased that the band's recorded output from an imperious late 1970s and early 1980s is being re-aired.

"It was a very intense and fast period from having overnight been the pariahs and then breaking all kinds of records and selling records and having an audience who wanted to see us rather than murder us. It was very creative for us back then. We were just writing all the time.

"There was pent up frustration

*The bad press that we had all those years ago is a badge of honour*

and energy and we wanted to explore our potential. We weren't satisfied. Suddenly we had a bit of a hit, we wanted to go further. We wanted to see what we could as artists, what we could do. As our experiences expanded and our horizon, so did our attempts to try and improve.

"In the first 18 months we had three albums out, all top three. The first three years were really slow and doubts crept into our mind about doing the right thing. Then things happened suddenly but overnight it changed. We were living off Paxo sage and onion stuffing when no girlfriend meant no food or drink."

Remarkably, the band are more popular than ever. And they have offers to tour the world. The band pick and choose what they want to do – turning down things that are too much bother.

"We have to decide whether we want to go somewhere. Every time we turn down the USA they double the offer. There are a few places we're not too keen on going to. The Americans want you to queue up for the American embassy and be interrogated about why we want to go there. You can't make a joke. So we don't accept the offers."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Edgelarks Photo: Elly Lucas



## Life on the Edge with one of the UK's top folk duos

One of Britain's leading folk music duos are performing at a village church on the edge of the Black Country this weekend.

Edgelarks, who are Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin, have just received their third nomination in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. They won the top duo award in 2014 and were nominated again in 2016.

The pair's new project takes the roots of their previous work – from the traditional musics of the British Isles to Indian classical slide guitar and Phillip's stomping beatbox harmonica – and adds a strong stem of original writing.

Edgelarks, which was one of MOJO's top ten folk albums of 2017, is Phillip and Hannah's most innovative work to date. As well as being their fourth

studio album, it also marks the genesis of a brand new band name.

From recording their first album, Singing the Bones, at home in their living room in the dead of night, they have gone on to produce three more records – Mynd, Live in Calstock and Watershed – each time refining the process and honing their production skills.

Edgelarks appropriately will be performing near Kinver Edge, at St Peter's Church in Kinver, on Saturday at 8pm. Tickets cost £13. See [www.edgelarks.co.uk](http://www.edgelarks.co.uk) or call 07503 191825 for details.

But fans of Irish folk will no doubt be at Birmingham Town Hall that night for The Dublin Legends – Sean Cannon, Eamonn Campbell, Paul Watchorn and Gerry O'Connor – playing favourites by The Dubliners.

## Crying for Evita as blockbuster returns



Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Evita is thrilling audiences once again across the UK.

Telling the story of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron, Evita follows Eva's journey from humble beginnings through to extraordinary wealth, power and iconic status.

Madalena Alberto returns to the role of Eva, for which she received critical acclaim in the 2014 West End revival. Her other credits include the role of Fantine in the 25th anniversary production of Les Misérables.

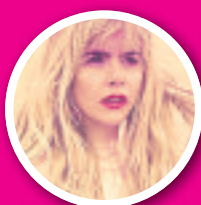
Evita is one of the most popular musicals including the songs Don't Cry For Me Argentina, On This Night of a Thousand Stars, You Must Love Me and Another Suitcase in Another Hall.

Other theatre highlights to look out for include comic alternative history from Told By An Idiot with Napoleon Disrobed at Birmingham Rep's studio theatre The Door from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. At Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre are masked drama group Vamos Theatre with A Brave Face tonight and tomorrow, and comedy chaos for all the family with The 4 Clowns of the Apocalypse on Tuesday.

Ex-Strictly Come Dancing pro Brendan Cole brings his All Night Long show to Symphony Hall in Birmingham tomorrow (Friday) and Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday. Contemporary dance fans will head to Birmingham Hippodrome on Friday and Saturday for Ballet British Columbia, Canada's leading modern dance company. There will be Asian dance at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday when Jaivant Patel Dance present Holi: Basant Ke Rang, a celebration of spring dedicated to the memory of Wolverhampton Mayor Elias Mattu.

## Paloma on way to the Genting

POP star Paloma Faith returns to the West Midlands following the success of her fourth album, The Architect, with a concert at the Genting Arena on Wednesday, March 13. Hackney-born Paloma, 36, who recently became a mother, is known for hits Changing, Only Love Can Hurt Like This, Picking Up The Pieces, New York, Never Tear Us Apart, Crybaby and Stone Cold Sober. Support from XamVolo. Paloma is back for Forest Live at Cannock Chase on June 29.



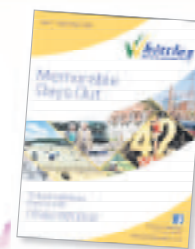
## 'Elvis' back in the building, 50 years on

Fifty years ago Elvis Presley's career was revived by the '68 Comeback Special, a one-off television show aired by American network NBC, and to celebrate that milestone theatre impresario Bill Kenwright brings tribute show This Is Elvis to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

From Monday to Saturday, the touring show will recreate that classic concert and the drama leading up to it with award-winning tribute artist Steve Michaels in the role of Elvis. Steve has played alongside some of Elvis Presley's iconic band mates including the extraordinary Jordanaires and the soulful voices of the Sweet Inspirations. This Is Elvis includes such hits as Trouble, Heartbreak Hotel, Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, Jailhouse Rock, In The Ghetto and Suspicious Minds.

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CHOICE



**Will.i.am**  
**The Voice UK (ITV, 8.30pm)**  
 It's the first of the knockout shows as 12 acts sing for a place in the semi-finals. Coaches Jennifer Hudson, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Olly Murs can pick only one act from their teams to progress in the competition, so there are some tough decisions to make. Helping them are guests Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas, Kylie Minogue, Leona Lewis and The Voice UK's reigning champion, Mo'Nique.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Classic Mary Berry. (R)**  
**12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 MasterChef. (R) 2.15 MasterChef. (R) 3.15 MasterChef. (R)**  
**3.45 Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R)**  
**4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v France (Kick-off 5.00pm).**  
**7.00 BBC News.**  
**7.10 Regional Programme.**  
**7.20 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman welcome Sam Nixon and Mark Rhodes, Ellie Taylor and Milton Jones, Jay Rayner and Thomasina Miers, and Paul Martin and Sara Pascoe to the general knowledge quiz. The famous faces must try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.  
**8.10 Casualty.** Rash's new-found confidence is tested when he treats a prisoner, who also leads Gem into danger. Ben goes up against snappy F1 Eddie for a place on a coveted training course.  
**9.00 Troy: Fall of a City.** Paris finds himself on the run as a fugitive, hunted by Greek forces intent on avenging the slight that sparked the flames of war. Seeking a safe refuge, he returns to his shepherd roots and the hills where he grew up. Meanwhile, back in Troy, Helen is left without a single ally as Pandarus's investigation gathers momentum, and the Trojans try to exploit divisions among the Greeks. Historical epic, starring Louis Hunter, Jonas Armstrong, Bella Dayne, David Threlfall, David Gyasi and Joseph Mawle.  
**10.00 BBC News; Weather.** National Lottery Update.  
**10.20 Match of the Day.** Highlights of Bournemouth v West Bromwich Albion, Huddersfield Town v Crystal Palace, Stoke City v Everton and Liverpool v Watford in the Premier League.  
**11.20 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Highlights of Swansea City v Tottenham Hotspur at the Liberty Stadium and Manchester United v Brighton & Hove Albion at Old Trafford.  
**11.50 Film: Gambit. (2012)** Comedy remake, starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman.  
**1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) 6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) 7.10 The Pets Factor. 7.30 The Designers. 8.00 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. 8.30 Beyond Bionic. 9.00 Robot Wars. (R) 10.00 Gorilla Family and Me. (R) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 11.35 Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) 12.35 Orson Welles: Talking Pictures. (R) 1.20 Film: Waterloo. (1970) 3.30 Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.30 The Repair Shop. (R) 6.00 Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall explores the Somerset Levels, where he visits Worthy Farm, home to Glastonbury Festival, before heading to the Secret World Rescue Centre.  
**7.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby.** Giles Coren and Monica Galletti head to the foothills of the Swiss Alps to experience health and wellness tourism at the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. (R)  
**8.00 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** The naturalist investigates whether animals and plants have developed an awareness of mathematics, including bamboos that flower exactly the same around the world.  
**8.30 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a train carrying George VI passing through Walmington-on-Sea. (R)  
**9.00 Film: Suite Francaise. (2014)** Premiere. Passion develops between a woman and the Nazi officer stationed in her home during Germany's occupation of France. Second World War drama, starring Kristin Scott Thomas.  
**10.40 Performance Live: Winged Bull in the Elephant Case.** An immersive performance, combining dance choreographed by Wayne McGregor and others with music and spoken word, filmed underground and in London's National Gallery.  
**11.10 Film: Defiance. (2008)** Three Jewish brothers escape into the woods during the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, and launch a series of guerrilla attacks on German forces. As word of their actions spreads, other refugees join them to form a larger resistance movement. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig.  
**1.15 Civilisations. (R) 2.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Super 4. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) 9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning. 11.20 Britain's Brightest Family. (R) 11.50 ITV News; Weather. 12.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Scotland (Kick-off 12.30pm). 2.25 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Ireland (Kick-off 2.45pm). 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 ITV News; Weather. 6.15 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including footage of a golfer being surprised by an alligator, and a child being fired into a beltry.  
**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** George Ezra opens the show with a performance of his new hit, as well as joining Ant and Dec on stage for the End of The Show Show. Ashley and Jordan Banjo from dance troupe Diversity are pushed to their limits in the return of Get Out Of My Ear! Stephen Mulhern and Scarlett Moffatt join in the fun, and another player gets the chance to Win the Aids.  
**8.30 The Voice UK.** The first of the knockout shows as 12 acts sing for a place in the semi-finals. Guests include Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas and Kylie Minogue.  
**10.30 ITV News; Weather.**  
**10.45 Film: Fast & Furious. (2009)** News of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian O'Conner, and despite their hostile feelings toward each other, the pair work together to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster.  
**12.45 Play to the Whistle. (R) 1.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 Babushka. (R)****

CHANNEL 4

**6.00 Winter Paralympics Live. 8.00 Winter Paralympics Breakfast. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 1.25 Film: Casper. (1995) Supernatural family comedy, starring Christina Ricci. 3.20 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 4.25 The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) 5.30 Winter Paralympics Today.  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages.** The actress discovers the idyllic coastal villages of East Anglia. She travels by train to the Edwardian holiday resort of Weybourne, and goes dredging at Cleve next the Sea. Penelope also hears a scandalous take in Suffolk, and heads to Thorpeness, Suffolk, to visit a village inspired by the tale of Peter Pan. Finally, she takes in the ancient settlement of Dunwich and ends her journey at Walberswick.  
**8.00 Britain at Low Tide.** Tori Herridge explores the Severn Estuary, visiting the site of a medieval village that disappeared into the sea and finding out how important the ferry crossing at Aust once was.  
**9.00 Film: Fantastic Four. (2015)** Premiere. A gifted young scientist joins a secret project researching inter-dimensional travel, and return from a journey to another world granted superhuman powers. Their abilities make them the only hope for Earth's survival when a colleague who was lost on their expedition returns to wreak vengeance. Superhero adventure, starring Miles Teller, Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara and Jamie Bell.  
**10.55 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jon Richardson and Michelle Wolf take on guest captain Jonathan Ross with Johnny Vegas, while three-man comedy act Pappy's helps out in Dictionary Corner. Last in the series. (R)  
**11.55 The Inbetweeners.** The friends prepare for their exams. Simon makes progress with Carli by helping her revise, and the gang members get together to reminisce about the past year. Last in the series. (R)  
**12.30 Winter Paralympics Live. 5.35 Location, Location, Location. (R)****

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.35 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.35 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.30 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.30 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.30 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 5.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)  
**6.25 5 News Weekend.**  
**6.30 FIA Formula E Live.** The Punta del Este ePrix. Vernon Kay presents coverage of the sixth round of the campaign, which is held in Punta del Este, Uruguay.  
**8.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Documentary giving an insight into cash-strapped Britain from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments, including High Court enforcement bailiffs and repossession teams. The series follows each case as it unfolds, recording the thoughts and feelings on both sides, the process of repossession and the impact it has on all involved. (R)  
**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights of the weekend's games, including Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday at Elland Road, Barnsley v Millwall at Oakwell, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Burton Albion at Molineux and Bolton Wanderers v Aston Villa at the Macron Stadium.  
**10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Oxford United v Peterborough United and Rochdale v AFC Wimbledon.  
**10.30 Live: Hayemaker Fight Night.** Matt Askin v Stephen Simmons and Joe Joyce v Donnie Palmer. Coverage of the respective cruiserweight and heavyweight bouts, which take place at the York Hall in Bethnal Green.  
**12.00 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.10 Cowboy Builders. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. A compilation edition of the home improvement series, with interior designer Ann Maurice revisits some of her most striking transformations of kitchens and dining rooms. (R) 5.10 House Busters. (R)**

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America  
**8.00** The Silk Road 9.00 Below the Surface  
**10.30** 101P2  
**11.15** Irish Rock at the BBC  
**12.15** Top of the Pops: 1985  
**1.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America  
**2.15** The Silk Road  
**3.15** TOP2  
**4.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
**1.20** Film: License to Wed (2007)  
**2.30** Film: License to Wed (2007)  
**3.05** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004)  
**4.10** FYI Daily  
**4.15** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004)  
**4.55** Film: Evan Almighty (2007)  
**5.55** FYI Daily  
**6.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007)  
**6.50** Film: Gravity (2013)  
**7.55** FYI Daily  
**8.00** Film: Gravity (2013)  
**8.50** Film: Gravity (2013)  
**9.30** FYI Daily  
**9.35** Film: Gravity (2013)  
**11.10** Family Guy  
**12.10** American Dad!  
**1.05** Action Team  
**1.35** Ibiza Weekender  
**2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records  
**2.45** Teleshopping  
**5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**1.10** Inspector Morse  
**3.25** Film: Columbo: Playback (1975)  
**5.00** Vera  
**7.00** Midsomer Murders  
**11.00** Inspector Morse  
**1.10** The Good Karma Hospital  
**2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**1.30** ITV Racing Live from Uttoxeter.  
**4.00** Film: How the West Was Won (1962)  
**5.05** FYI Daily  
**5.10** Film: How the West Was Won (1962)  
**7.10** Storage Wars  
**8.00** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987)  
**9.05** FYI Daily  
**9.10** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987)  
**9.50** Film: Wanted (2008)  
**10.55** FYI Daily  
**11.00** Film: Wanted (2008)  
**12.00** Film: The Dictator (2012)  
**1.00** FYI Daily  
**1.05** Film: The Dictator (2012)  
**1.45** Minder  
**2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen  
**2.30** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts  
**12.30** The Goldbergs  
**1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
**2.00** Young Sheldon  
**2.30** The Big Bang Theory  
**4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer  
**5.15** Extreme Cake Makers  
**6.00** The Big Bang Theory  
**9.00** Film: The World's End (2013)  
**11.10** Gogglebox  
**12.15** Five Star Hotel  
**3.20** Timeless  
**4.05** How I Met Your Mother  
**4.45** Rude(ish) Tube  
**Film4**  
**1.00** Rio (2011)  
**1.00** Step Up All In (2014)  
**3.10** Hulk (2003)  
**5.50** Avatar (2009)  
**9.00** R.I.P.D (2013)  
**10.55** The Pyramid (2014)  
**12.40** Citadel (2012)  
**2.20** Maniac (2012)  
**4.00** Close

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CHOICE



**Keeley Hawes**  
**The Durrells** (ITV, 8pm)  
New series. In the first episode of a new series, the family are surprised to find out that Leslie has three different girlfriends, so Louisa decides to take it upon herself to help him pick one by having each member of the family invite their favourite girl to afternoon tea. Larry injures his leg and Theo decides to use his newly set-up x-ray unit to try and examine it. Elsewhere, Gerry continues to grow his animal collection, Margo takes up a job as Theo's assistant, and Aunt Hermione arrives in Corfu for good.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Lorraine. **12.25** Songs of Praise. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Wigan Athletic v Southampton (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.35** A Question of Sport. (R) **4.05** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Leicester City v Chelsea (Kick-off 4.30pm). **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Ellie Harrison travels to Pembrokeshire to assess the effects of recent storms on the area's coastline. Adam Henson visits Scotland's Rural College to look at the latest research into reducing farming's impact on global warming, while Tom Heap looks at declining sales in lamb, and learns about the problems this has caused for the UK's sheep farmers. **8.00** Hold the Sunset. Bob suggests that Roger apply to become his mother's paid carer – but the only problem is that she is in perfect health, so he needs someone more in need of support to pose as her. **8.30** Film: Brooklyn. (2015) Premiere. An Irish woman living with her mother in the 1950s decides to make a fresh start in America. She makes her home in New York, and falls in love. However, her past catches up with her when she receives bad news from Ireland, and faces a harsh choice between her two homes. Drama based on Colm Toibin's novel, starring Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Jim Broadbent and Julie Walters. **10.10** BBC News. **10.30** Regional Programme. **10.40** Paddy McGuinness' Sport Relief Warm Up. The host rows, walks and jogs from his home to the Sport Relief studio in Salford, and along the way looks at highlights from past events and offers previews of Sport Relief 2018. **11.40** Film: The Sentinel. (2006) A secret service agent is framed for murder as he tries to expose a neo-Nazi militia who has infiltrated the White House. Spy thriller, with Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland. **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.05** Coast. (R) **7.05** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.20** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **10.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.30** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **1.45** Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago. (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.45** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **4.45** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **5.45** Film: Catch Me If You Can. (2002) Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. **8.00** Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc tests the world's fastest-accelerating car, with a little help from NASA. Chris Harris pens a heartfelt love letter to the Citroen 2CV, while Rory Reid samples some exciting cars from South Korea. Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne are the studio guests. **9.00** Famously Unfit for Sport Relief. Entertainer Les Dennis, presenter Susannah Constantine, actress Tameka Empson and comedian Miles Jupp embark on a muscle-grinding mission to regain their fitness. Cameras follow the foursome over a 10-week period as they run, climb and swim their way back to fitness, culminating in one of the UK's hardest and most demanding physical challenges – which sees the quartet tackle a muddy and exhausting assault course in freezing temperatures. The programme also features visits to two projects in the UK, illustrating some of the ways in which money raised through the fund helps vulnerable people. **10.00** The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R) **10.30** Top Gear: Extra Gear. Rory Reid puts his engineering skills to the challenge of building a rear wheel drive car. With guests touring car champion Chris Turkington and comedian Brennan Reece. **10.55** Women's Six Nations Highlights. Action from the final round of fixtures, where were England v Ireland at the Ricoh Arena, Wales v France at Parc Eirias and Italy v Scotland at the Stadio Pileisito. **11.25** Film: Being Blacker. (2018) **12.55** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.30** The Harbour. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. An abandoned puppy is brought in with a skin condition that is so severe the vets are unable to determine its breed, and Paul tries to prepare his dog for a neutering operation. (R) **6.30** ITV News: Weather. **6.45** Regional Programme: Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the guessing game, challenging Chris Kamara, Stacey Solomon and Catherine Tyldesley to see it and say it. **8.00** The Durrells. New series. In the first episode of a new series, the family are surprised to find out that Leslie has three different girlfriends, and Aunt Hermione arrives in Corfu for good. **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital. New series. Ruby encounters new challenges as a blistering heatwave hits Kerala, while Lydia decides she is ready for her first solo night shift. But when a storm hits Barco, Ruby faces an agonising test that stretches her medical skills to the limits. Return of the medical drama set in southern India, starring Amrita Acharia and Andrea Redman. **10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Peston on Sunday. (R) **11.15** Six Nations Highlights. Jill Douglas presents action from the final round of fixtures, featuring England v Ireland, Wales v France and Italy v Scotland. **12.10** Marcella. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **6.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Mobli 1: The Grid. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Winter Paralympics Today. **2.00** Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony. Coverage from PyeongChang Olympic Stadium in South Korea. **3.15** Film: Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **5.15** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Britain's Polar Bear Cub. Behind the scenes at the Highland Wildlife Park near Kinrossie in Invernesshire, following efforts to breed the nation's first polar bear cub for 25 years as keepers mate Arktos with Victoria. Cameras reveal the highs and lows of the staff's attempts to breed one of the world's most recognisable and endangered animals. **8.00** Escape to the Chateau. New series. Series following a British family restoring a French chateau. As summer arrives, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree are busier than ever with seven weddings and 14 food lovers' weekends to prepare for. And as if that wasn't enough to keep them busy, they must also sort out the garden, work on a stables conversion and embark on a surprising floating adventure. **9.00** Homeland. Carrie puts a plan in motion. Saul visits a source and Keane makes a desperate plea. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel. **10.05** 13 Commandments. New series. A provincial Belgian town is rocked by the murder of a 16-year-old girl and the case takes a shocking turn. Crime thriller, starring Dirk Van Dijk. In Flemish. **11.00** Film: Solace. (2015) A psychic helps the FBI to identify a serial killer, but realises the murderer has mental powers of his own. Crime thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins and Colin Farrell. **12.55** The Last Leg. With guest Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.50** The Job Interview. (R) **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.25** Gillette World Sport. **3.55** Undercover: Who's Policing Your Back? – Channel 4 Dispatches. (R) **4.25** Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Homemade Home. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **10.55** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.25** Film: Getting Even with Dad. (1994) **1.30** Film: Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.15** Film: My Girl. (1991) Drama, starring Anna Chlumsky and Macaulay Culkin. **4.15** 5 News Update. **4.20** Film: My Girl. (1991) Concluded. **5.20** Film: Junior. (1994) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **7.20** Film: Jumper. (2008) A man discovers he has the ability to teleport, a talent he cleverly exploits to rob banks undetected while living a life of luxury all over the world. However, he soon learns he is not the only one with this power – and that a secret society of religious fanatics is determined to wipe out him and all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell and Samuel L. Jackson. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: The Equalizer. (2014) A retired secret agent applies his talents to the task of helping victims of injustice. When he witnesses a prostitute being beaten up by a pimp, he kills the man, an act that draws him into a battle to the death with a Russian crime syndicate. Action thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Denzel Washington and Chloë Grace Moretz. **10.00** 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: The Equalizer. (2014) Concluded. **11.35** Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) The mercenary team battles a rival band of hired guns who have killed one of their number. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme. **1.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **9.00** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **10.00** Film: 13 Minutes (2015) **11.45** The Riviera: A History in Pictures **1.45** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **2.45** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **3.45** Sounds of the Seventies **4.00** Close **ITV2**  
**12.55** The Voice UK **2.55** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.05** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **6.05** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **7.00** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** Ibiza Weekend **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **ITV3**  
**7.00** Murder, She Wrote **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure **10.00** Film: The Theory of Everything (2014) **12.30** Inspector Morse **2.25** Blue Murder **3.40** Rising Damp **4.05** Road to Avonlea **ITV4**  
**11.50** FYI Daily **11.55** Film: How the West Was Won (1962) **12.00** Goodwood Members Meeting. **4.00** Hamblower **6.10** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **9.00** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **11.50** Film: Above the Law (1988) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** Film: Above the Law (1988) **1.55** River Monsters **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**12.20** The Big Bang Theory **4.20** The Goldbergs **4.50** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.50** Young Sheldon **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.50** Film: School of Rock (2003) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: 2 Guns (2013) **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Five Star Hotel **3.00** First Dates **3.25** Hollyoaks **Film4**  
**1.00** Anastasia (1997) **2.50** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **4.40** One Fine Day (1996) **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **9.00** Terminator Genisys (2015) **11.25** The King's Speech (2010) **1.40** Force Majeure (2014) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**A Deadly Affair, Channel 5, 3.20pm**  
 Suspecting her husband Charlie of having an affair, author Mary trails him to the house he has been renovating, only to find his dead body. As she is having her own fling, Mary becomes the lead suspect in her spouse's murder. Thriller, starring Valerie Azlynn, Austin Highsmith and Luke Edwards. (2017)

**TUESDAY**  
**The Expendables 3, Channel 5, 10pm**  
 Soldier of fortune Barney Ross discovers an old friend he was forced to kill is still alive, and has become a powerful arms dealer with vengeance on his mind. Barney is forced to recruit a new band of mercenaries and adopt more modern tactics to deal with this threat to him and his past associates. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson. (2014)



Under Siege, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**A Walk Among the Tombstones, Channel 5, 9pm**  
 An ex cop working as an unlicensed private eye is hired by a drug trafficker to find the men who murdered his wife. As the detective investigates the case, he discovers the men he is tracking have killed many times before and takes desperate measures to stop them claiming another victim. Crime thriller based on Lawrence Sanders' novel, starring Liam Neeson and Dan Stevens. (2014)

**THURSDAY**  
**Under Siege, Channel 5, 10pm**  
 Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey and Tommy Lee Jones. (1992)

**FRIDAY**  
**The Net, Channel 4, 12.10am**  
 A computer analyst has to prove her true identity after her details are replaced by a false police record on the national database. Thriller, with Sandra Bullock, Jeremy Northam, Dennis Miller and Diane Baker. (1995)

# The stars are out to shine in the aid of a good cause

Whether you're a couch potato or a seasoned sprinter, we hope you have been on your feet this week and making your steps count.

In the lead up to tonight's Sport Relief, the Billion Steps Challenge has been taking place as the British public have been encouraged to get active, have fun and raise cash to help people living tough lives both in the UK and around the world.

For the first time, tonight's show comes live from Salford, with the mayhem beginning at 7pm as Gary Lineker, Davina McCall and Ore Oduba welcome viewers. Throughout the night, the baton is then passed to Paddy McGuinness, Claudia Winkleman and Freddie Flintoff as they guide viewers into the early hours.

As is always the case with Sport Relief, a host of famous faces will be stepping into unfamiliar territory, all in the name of entertainment and fundraising.

Celebrity Boxing makes a comeback, as six fearless stars don

their gloves and mouth guards and take to the ring for a triple-bill of bouts. Wayne Bridge faces Spencer Matthews, Hannah Spearritt goes head to head with Vanessa White and Camilla Thurlow takes on Helen Skelton.

Also during the evening, comedian John Bishop lands a role he could only have dreamt of and sets out on a mission to help England win the World Cup.

We'll see a Clash Of The Channels Boat Race, while Sue Barker hosts a special edition of quiz A Question Of Sport.

There will be regular visits to 5-Live-A-Side outside the studio, where Robbie Savage's celebrity all-star team are attempting a whopping 12 hours of non-stop football.

Strictly Come Dancing brings a welcome dose of glitz and glamour to the evening as three football legends - Alex Scott, Chris Kamara and David Ginola - don their sequins and show us their fancy footwork.

Throughout the night, there will be a look into how money raised through Sport Relief can help vulnerable people in the UK and across the world to live happier, healthier, safer lives, with a special focus this year on maternal health, malaria and mental health.

There will be updates on Zoe Ball who has been taking part in a cycle challenge from Blackpool to Brighton to raise mental health awareness, after the death of her boyfriend, cameraman Billy Yates, last year.

Zoe says: "I wanted to do something for him. One in four people is living with mental illness. That's a lot of people struggling."

In 2016, Radio 1 DJ Greg James finished five triathlons in five days in five cities and raised over £750,000.

This year, he has taken part in another epic challenge, officially named Pedal To The Peaks, but nicknamed the Gregathon.

He said: "My last challenge was unbelievably difficult but I think we're about to top it. This challenge is even more ridiculous."

**MONDAY**  
**Marcella**  
**ITV, 9pm**  
 Retracing the route of the lorry and the car from the train crash, the team is able to deduce the area in which Adam was picked up and the vehicle was stolen. Officers are dispatched to the area and come across an old abandoned house with a bloody handprint on the door and what they find inside the house shocks Marcella and Rav to their core as the true scale of the killer's crimes become apparent.

**TUESDAY**  
**The World's Ugliest Pets**  
**ITV, 8pm**  
 The Internet is awash with pictures of perfect pugs, cutesy kittens and beautiful bunnies. But what about the ugly ones? This one-off programme celebrates the pets who haven't been blessed with beauty, as animal lover Caroline Quentin shares her love for 'fugly' (fabulously-ugly) furry friends. The show features everything from hairless guinea pigs to one-eyed dogs and follows Caroline as she journeys to the mecca of mutt-ugly animals: The World's Ugliest Dog Contest in Petaluma, California. Starting her journey in the UK, Caroline meets some of the country's ugliest pets and explores why Brits love an

underdog. Then she will choose the UK's ugliest pooch to represent the nation, before crossing the Atlantic to California, along with the dog and its owner, to fly the flag for Britain's 'fugly' pets.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Zoe Ball's Hardest Road Home**  
**BBC1, 9pm**  
 It's Sports Relief this week and one celebrity who's been doing more than her bit is Zoe Ball. In a bid to raise money - and show how that cash helps to support mental health projects across the UK - the Radio 2 presenter set out to cycle from her birthplace of Blackpool to her beloved hometown of Brighton. It's a grueling undertaking for a novice cyclist, especially given the unpredictable nature of the weather over the past few weeks, but how did Zoe get on? This documentary follows her progress as she pushes herself to the physical and emotional limit - although on the plus side, at least she gets to pass some historic sites and iconic landmarks along the way. We'll also get an insight into what motivated Ball to take on such a huge challenge.

**THURSDAY**  
**Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald**  
**ITV, 9pm**  
 Throughout his career, Trevor McDonald has met many remarkable people. However, there is one man who he always wishes he could have spoken to - Martin Luther King. The American civil rights leader was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and as the 50th anniversary approaches, McDonald is travelling to the Deep South of America to learn more about the man who meant so much to him. The broadcaster also discovers more about what King was fighting against, as he speaks to an expert on the horrors of lynching in 20th-century America and meets a former Ku Klux Klan member who confesses there was a time when he would have targeted him because of the colour of his skin.

**FRIDAY**  
**Live International Football**  
**ITV, 7.30pm**  
 Netherlands v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the friendly at the Johan Cruyff Arena, as England began preparations for the World Cup. Gareth Southgate's men qualified for the finals unbeaten, but he will still feel there is room for improvement as he looks to find his strongest team ahead of the finals in Russia. Despite finishing third four years ago and as runners-up in 2010, the Dutch have failed to qualify for the World Cup this time around and are now looking to rebuild under the guidance of new manager Ronald Koeman, who had spells as boss of Southampton and Everton. With analysis from Ian Wright, Lee Dixon and Patrick Kluivert, and commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

**Britain's Favourite Food**  
**Channel 4, 8pm**  
 Simon Rimmer looks at some of the nation's favourite branded foods, which found fame in a past era. In the first of two programmes, the cook and restaurateur tells the story of Angel Delight, revisits the golden summer of 1979 with lollies like Zoom and Fab, relates the amazing tale of Blue Nun and the wine the French allegedly adored - Le Piat d'Or.



The biennial fundraiser, Sport Relief 2018, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

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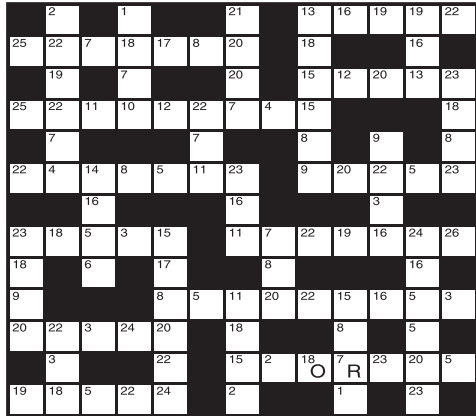


## BRAIN GYM

No.471

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	O	J	N	G	I	B	E	L	W	U	A	X	H	S	M	C	K	Y	Q	P	T	V	R	D	F

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

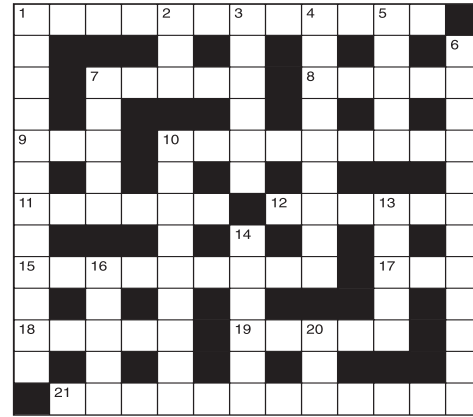
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Where they are well-endowed to deal with complaints? (6,6)
- Some support for the workers (5)
- A quaintly pleasing French accent (5)
- Finished up with paid help (3)
- Finished after only half the distance and stretched out (9)
- Country hat (6)
- Hang about as many fish (6)
- Little known, but giving one credit (9)
- No alternative (3)
- One is about to make a racket (5)
- Put a watch on (5)
- Condenses Enid's solo act, perhaps (12)

## Down

- Successor clearly seen (4,8)
- Food and drink (3)
- Don't agree it's rubbish (6)
- Deadlock with an old friend (9)
- Drinks and a sandwich (5)
- A quality we don't care to show (12)
- Battle for the chairman's seat? (5)
- Bullies those who work around the pit (9)
- Ridiculed a conductor, we hear (5)
- He has a part in a Shakespeare play, but may be fired (6)
- The atmosphere in a small company may be capital (5)
- It's not sensible to stop up (3)



## Quick Clues:

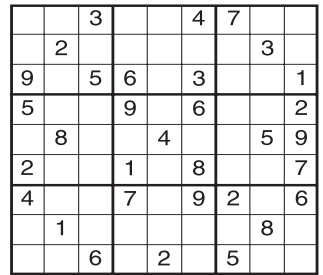
## Across

- U.S. port (3,9)
- Later (5)
- Coach (5)
- Fasten (3)
- Perfume (9)
- One who goes naked (6)
- Amend (6)
- Tavern (3)
- Boxing ring (5)
- Sea (5)
- In various places (4,3,5)

## Down

- Meteor (8,4)
- Decay (3)
- Usual (6)
- Interpose (9)
- Fetter (5)
- Endless (12)
- In front (5)
- Continuous shooting (9)
- Constellation (5)
- Flung (6)
- Portion (5)
- Consume (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

3	2	8	5	1	9	7	4	6
1	4	7	6	3	2	8	9	5
9	5	6	4	7	8	1	3	2
5	3	9	7	8	1	2	6	4
4	7	2	9	5	6	3	1	8
6	8	1	2	4	3	9	5	7
2	9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1
8	6	3	1	2	4	5	7	9
7	1	4	8	9	5	6	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Fairway; 8 Reason; 9 Upstart; 10 Tuscan; 11 Reeled; 12 Organdie; 18 Fatalist; 20 Manager; 21 Skater; 22 Straits; 23 Intone; 24 Addenda. Down: 1 Oration; 2 Passage; 3 Domain; 5 Apparent; 6 Rafter; 7 Agreed; 13 Defeated; 14 Fiction; 15 Started; 16 Matted; 17 Garage; 19 Asking. QUICK - Across: 4 Variety; 8 Opined; 9 Account; 10 Cougar; 11 Spined; 12 Penitent; 18 Commence; 20 Colour; 21 Struck; 22 Comical; 23 Detain; 24 Lengthy. Down: 1 Concept; 2 Piquant; 3 Depart; 5 Accustom; 6 Irony; 7 Tinged; 13 Encroach; 14 Inhuman; 15 Weakens; 16 Morose; 17 Coming; 19 Mutter.

## Quiz

- In the Arabian Nights, how many journeys did Sinbad make?
- What is the administrative capital of Bolivia?
- Which US state is nicknamed the Beehive State?
- What is the Lord Chancellor's seat in the House of Lords called?
- What is the capital of Rwanda?
- Which drug yields both morphine and codeine?
- Which architect designed London's Chelsea Hospital?
- What is the longest river in Europe?
- Who was the Roman god of fire and destruction?
- Which Canadian territory's capital is Whitehorse?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kentucky Derby; 2 Pandora; 3 Assyrian;

4 A lizard; 5 Fremantle; 6 Judo; 7 Tree; 8 US

Independence; 9 Zaire; 10 Ceefax.

Niner: MANGROVES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2785328  
6422  
123496

gives a British city,  
gives a second British city,  
gives a British town.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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## MNA DIGITAL



# Brighton breezy and runaway success

RUNNING around a 13-mile course in the cold would not be everyone's ideal way to spend a Sunday morning.

But when it's in Brighton it makes it all worthwhile. With a daughter at university in the south-east city, we have become frequent visitors in the last few months.

So taking on the Brighton Half Marathon, its 28th, seemed the perfect excuse to spend another weekend there.

It was fresh as literally thousands of runners took their places, but the atmosphere was tremendous, with well-wishers cheering on the runners, random children high-fiving and strangers offering energy-boosting jelly babies.

And of course, it gave participants the chance to see the sights of the beautiful city, including the Sea Life Centre, Royal Pavilion and the British Airways i360. The route even takes in Hove and its colourful beach huts.

## MERGED

Brighton and Hove merged in 1997 and was given city status in 2000. Of course, one doesn't necessarily need to take the muscle-sapping half marathon route to enjoy what the city has to offer. The i360, for example, offers an all-round view of the city and even of the Isle of Wight.

There's the largest marina in the UK, with its working harbour, residential housing and entertainment including glow in dark golf, cinema and eateries.

The Lanes shopping area features niche retail outlets and pubs, while the city is also home to the Brighton Dome, where Abba won Eurovision in 1974 with Waterloo. And it's home to Premiership football, of course.

Music still plays a big part in the city's culture today.

Peruse the shops in The Lanes or stop for a bite



Take time for a stroll along Brighton Pier



Bands The Kooks, Levellers, Royal Blood and Brit award-winning Rag n Bone Man all hail from the region. As does celebrated DJ Norman 'Fat Boy Slim' Cook, who was also running in the half marathon with his teenage son Woody.

The history of Brighton as a holiday destination of repute dates back to Prince Regent, later George IV, who established himself there in late 18th century, and commissioned leading architect John Nash to create the iconic Royal Pavilion as his seaside retreat.

By 1814 the rail line opened and mass tourism was encouraged. Brighton continued to prosper even after Queen Victoria sold the pavilion. Many landmarks were built during her reign including the listed Palace Pier, the last one standing of three such structures.

The city, aka London by the Sea, attracts visitors all year round with entertainment including England's

largest arts festival, Pride, and a series of London to Brighton runs in the form of vintage cars and scooters, a nod to the 1963 film Quadrophenia, set in the city.

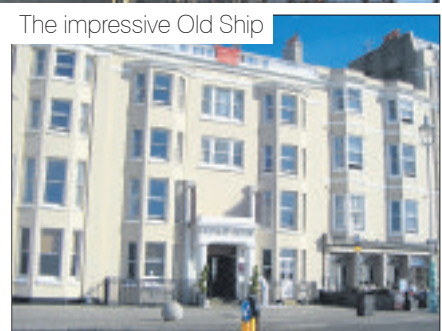
Also dating back centuries is the Old Ship, the city's oldest hotel, established in around 1559. We stayed in the imposing seafront premises, which has more than 340 rooms, a gym and features the listed Assembly Rooms.

Impressive, both from the outside and within, our splendid room had a sea view and the staff were so accommodating, allowing me take breakfast away to eat after the run, and putting back our checkout time to allow me to come back and shower afterwards.

Brighton breezy it may have been, but we are already planning our next trip back.

MARK SHIPP

The impressive Old Ship



Advertisement for property listings, featuring a grid of property photos and descriptions, including titles like 'COBELEY', 'PENSNETT', 'Kingsweirford', 'Belwindon', and 'Filton Avenue'.

# GET CUSTOMERS MOVING ADVERTISE

Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014



## Three-bed detached home is ideal for a family

ROWLEY REGIS  
£209,950

<<<

An ideal family home, this three-bed detached property in Queens Drive, Rowley Regis, is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £209,950 with no chain.

With majority gas central heating and double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall with an under-stairs storage cupboard, a lounge, dining room, kitchen and conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom, a garage and off-road parking.

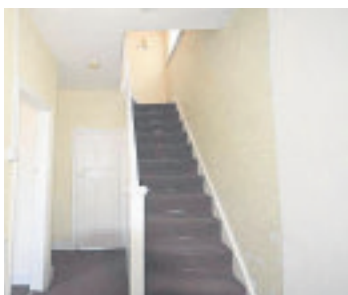
There is also an established private garden at the rear and parking for two/three vehicles.

In a popular residential location, this home is within walking distance of shopping facilities at Whiteheath and transport links into Oldbury, Blackheath and Birmingham.

For further information, or to book a viewing, contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.



## Conveniently located traditional semi an ideal renovation project



With the town centre being just around the corner, this three-bedroomed traditional semi in Grafton Road, West Bromwich, is for sale through [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) at offers over £139,950 with no chain.

This three-bedroom property is a renovation project. "Once refurbished and modernised, this property will make a fantastic home," said a [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) spokesman.

Grafton Road is conveniently located just off All Saints Way, affording easy access to Sandwell General Hospital, West Bromwich town centre, bus routes, the Metro links as well as the motorway networks.

The living accommodation is divided over two floors. The ground floor offers two very good-sized reception rooms, both with large windows allowing the natural light to flood in.

The kitchen is at the rear of the house.

WEST BROMWICH  
£139,950

"The possibilities are endless, if you have an extension in mind to make this into a large open plan kitchen and dining space," the spokesman added.

The rear garden is mainly laid down to lawn with a side access that leads back out the front aspect of this residence.

The large hallway has a staircase off, with the landing branching off to three good-sized bedrooms. The family bathroom suite completes this floor. This home also benefits from a new gas central heating system and new double glazing.

Contact [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) on 0800 862 0870.

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**19 Smith Road, Walsall, WS2 9DJ** Semi det house residential investment, regulated tenancy producing £5,200 PA Guide £70,000-£75,000

**Parcel of Freehold Lane Adj to 44 Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock, WS11 5HA** Roughly rectangular parcel of freehold land Guide £5,000+

**Freehold Land Fronting Colliery Road, Rugeley, WS15 1QN** Parcel of freehold land, part pasture & part mixed woodland Guide £55,000+

**Parcel of Land Fronting Startley Lane with Return Frontage to Colliery Road, Rugeley, WS15 1QN** Parcel of freehold land, part pasture & part woodland Guide £45,000+

**Land Rear of 77 Old Fallow Road, Cannock, WS11 5QL** Good size plot extending to 0.22Ha or thereabouts

**Outline PP for 5 Det houses** Guide £275,000-£300,000

**32 & 32a Princess Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock, WS11 5JS** Ideal buy to let, Semi det house arranged as 2 self contained flats Guide £75,000+

**125 Rugeley Road, Hazel Slade, WS12 0PG** Detached bungalow (potential for re-development subject to PP) Guide £200,000-£250,000

**Port Lane Cottage, Port Lane, Chillington, Brewood, WV9 5BH** Detached cottage with benefit of PP for 2 storey extension to rear. Guide £250,000+

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**HALESOWEN, Narrow Lane£950 pcm+Fees**  
A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to rent this semi detached large family home which has been totally refurbished to a very high standard. Located in this very popular location close to all bus & train links. Featuring 2 large reception rooms, beautiful fitted kitchen, utility, private rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower and a new block paved driveway (to be done). EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH, Manson Drive£795 pcm+Fees**  
ATTRACTIVE 3 double bed modern 3 storey semi-detached property located on this popular estate with lovely front views overlook the canal. Entrance hallway, fitted kitchen with oven/hob/lounge with patio doors leading to rear garden, 1st floor 2 bedrooms & family bathroom with shower, 2nd floor master bedroom with separate dressing area & en-suite shower room, gas central heating and double glazing, fully alarmed, garage, driveway, ideal family home. EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH, Dorothy Adams Close£775 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished modern 3 Storey townhouse, close to shops and rail links, briefly comprising of 3 Bedrooms, downstairs wc, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, master bedroom with en-suite & dressing area, house bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, rear garden. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Caslon Road£665 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely decorated 3 bedroom semi detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac location conveniently located close to shops, schools, transport links & all amenities. Featuring a spacious living room with feature fireplace, modern kitchen with pantry & electric cooker, w.c, utility area, 2 spacious double bedrooms & 1 large single room, family bathroom with shower, front & back garden with views. On road parking. EPC: TBC



**PENSNETT, Skylark Close £650 pcm+Fees**  
A fabulous 2 bedroom semi detached home being located in a quiet cul-de-sac location. The property, which is immaculately presented is double glazed, centrally heated and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, guest wc, fitted kitchen, lounge with feature fireplace, sizeable UPVC conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom with electric shower, enclosed 'low maintenance' rear garden, off road parking and a garage. EPC: D



**ROWLEY REGIS, Darby Street£595 pcm+Fees**  
A well presented 3 bedroom mid terraced house which has been re-painted throughout, entrance hall, front lounge, large kitchen/diner with oven/hob, 3 good size bedrooms and family bathroom with shower fitting over bath. Low maintenance rear garden, allocated parking to rear of property. EPC: D



**HAGLEY, Newlands Close £595 pcm+Fees**  
A superb modern ground floor apartment located near to Hagley Village & situated close to motorway links, open plan lounge/kitchen with appliances, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower room & 1 large single bedroom, white bathroom suite, 1 allocated parking space, secure entry system. All electric in the property. Not to be missed!! EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Lyttleton House£595 pcm+Fees**  
An attractively positioned, purpose built over 60s retirement apartment in Halesowen. Featuring large communal lounge, gardens, launderette facilities and lift access. This ground floor apartment is accessed via the secure communal hallway with intercom access. The apartment features a kitchen with fridge freezer, double bedroom with built in wardrobe, shower room, spacious lounge, electric heating and double glazing, and parking. Price to include water rates. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Farmers Court£595 pcm+Fees**  
Set on the popular Farmers Court development, this 2 bedroom mid terrace house benefits from: double glazing, gas central heating & briefly comprises of: entrance hall, kitchen with appliances, lounge with patio doors to rear garden, 2 Double Bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking space to front of property. EPC: D



**STOURBRIDGE/LYE, Stourbridge Road£575 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished 3 bedroom mid terraced property with off road parking to the rear, close to local amenities and main bus routes. The property is well presented and comprises of: entrance porch, hallway, lounge with feature fireplace, modern kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, private rear garden. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Cherry Street£575 pcm+Fees**  
A well presented mid terraced house in a sought after location, close proximity to the number 9 bus route and Halesowen town centre. Consists of lounge with feature wall, kitchen diner with plenty of storage and access to the good size rear garden with patio area and lawn, white bathroom suite with corner bath, separate shower cubicle, sink and WC, a large double bedroom and a single rear bedroom. EPC: D



**HAGLEY, Newlands Close £575 pcm+Fees**  
A superb modern ground floor apartment located near to Hagley Village & situated close to motorway links. Featuring a spacious lounge with patio doors, modern kitchen with a washing machine, a very large double bedroom and dressing area, house bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space, secure entry system. All electric in the property. Not to be missed!! EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Century Way£550 pcm+Fees**  
A superbly positioned modern 2nd floor apartment in this popular location overlooking woodland & having spacious accommodation, entrance hallway, lounge, separate fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 double bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom with shower. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£550 pcm+Fees**  
Semi detached house in central Halesowen. This property has 2 large double bedrooms, reception room, kitchen with hob, microwave & fridge, utility room, downstairs bathroom with separate shower, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazed. NO PARKING. NO ACCESS TO FRONT RECEPTION AS FORMALLY A SHOP. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Beecher Street£525 pcm+Fees**  
A ground floor modern apartment in the process of refurbishment in a very quiet location, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, private rear garden, double glazed, gas central heating, allocated parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road£495 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely ground floor flat that has been fully re-furnished to a very high standard. Within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring large living room, kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, beautiful shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Furnace Hill £495 pcm+Fees**  
A 2 bedroom mid terrace home, being double glazed and centrally heated. The accommodation is suitably located for nearby amenities and has accommodation to comprise a through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, 1 double & 1 single bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom and enclosed rear garden. EPC: TBC



**STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£450 pcm+Fees**  
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the ground floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom, 1 double bedroom, on road parking. EPC: D



**OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees**  
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, unfurnished. 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT REQUIRED. EPC: E



**WOLVERHAMPTON, Penn Road£425 pcm+Fees**  
A ground floor 1 bedroom apartment having excellent transport links to Wolverhampton. The accommodation benefits gas central heating and comprises a reception hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, 1 bedroom, fitted shower room, all access by a secure communal reception area. EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH, Upper High Street£395 pcm+Fees**  
Modern 1st floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden to rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit\*£1 months rent in advance. EPC: C

## PROPERTY



## Stunning bespoke property has the “wow factor”

**‘Greenbank’ 171 Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, is an absolutely stunning bespoke property packed with the “wow factor”.**

It is now for sale through Taylors estate agents at £525,000 with no chain.

Situated on its own private drive in a sought-after area, it lies secluded and within a unique location in Sedgley.

It has sweeping gardens and stunning open views. This generously-sized property has so

**SEDGLEY  
£525,000**

much to offer. It includes a porch, an imposing entrance hallway, three reception rooms, a hand-crafted kitchen/diner, an attractive guest W/C, utility room, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, a double garage and an enormous gravelled driveway to the front.

In more detail, the porch has tiled flooring, a timber frame door and folding doors leading to the imposing entrance hallway. This has stairs to the first floor and coming to the ceiling rail. Off this, the stunning living room has a leaded window to the front and a bay window to the side, giving extensive open views, plus an attractive feature fireplace with a log-effect gas fire.

To book that all important viewing, contact Taylors on 01902 880888.

## Lovely updated Edwardian period property with character



**OLDBURY  
£385,000**

**This charming four-bedroomed semi-detached property in Moat Road, Oldbury, has been modernised and improved by the current owners, but remains in keeping with its Edwardian period.**

It is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £385,000. It has good sized accommodation in a sought-after location with double glazing and gas central heating.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance vestibule, a reception hall, a cellarette, a front sitting room, a rear sitting room, a cloakroom/WC, a kitchen, four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside are gardens to the front and rear, a detached double garage and additional secure parking at the rear.

**To book that all important viewing, call Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk**



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# Local Specialists



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- Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal, decent, honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980. All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party. The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
- Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
- Liability** The Company's liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to re-publish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
- Box numbers** The Company accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars or communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
- Inspection** The Company shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
- Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
- Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-  
Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday  
Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication  
Colour Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication  
To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
- Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.  
All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
- Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.  
Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.  
Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
- Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
- Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

### Landscapers

## LANDSCAPING

Fencing, Patios and Driveways, Turfing and Artificial Grass, Retaining Walls, Pond Installation & Garden Clearance

CALL US ON:  
07817 553 346  
01384 387 016



info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk  
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

### Plumbing & Heating

## P.S. Heating & Plumbing

Combi Boiler change from £950  
Specialists in Baxi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more  
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS

**NATURAL & LPG GAS**  
Free Quotation  
**07961 140885**  
Fully Insured up to £2 million

## KEN PERRY

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed  
Guild of Master Craftsmen  
Gas Safe Registered  
STOURBRIDGE 392284

### Property Maintenance



All types of General Repairs to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
**0121 532 4861**  
No Job Too Small

### Roofing

## ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE

Over 30 years experience

**0121 420 1582**

**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**

Mobile Number: 07947 839451

allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk

allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

## CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands  
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping  
Call now for a FREE QUOTE  
01902 562600 or 07539 887144

### Plastering

## DH PLASTERERS

FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs TO complete rooms

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES  
**0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466**

### Mot's

## Why Pay Main Dealer Prices?

### Crossways Motor Bodies

- Motor Body Work Specialists
- Insurance Approved
- From a minor bump to major repairs
- FREE local pick up and delivery
- FREE estimates and written quotes

30 Years Experience



For a FREE estimate call:  
**0121 559 4040**

We also supply a car and van to none fault or insurance claims  
Web: www.crosswaysmotorbodies.co.uk  
email: crossways1@btinternet.com

Station Road, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, B64 6PL

### Skip Hire

## MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

Save £££s

All size skips and all areas covered  
Same day delivery faster than A phone call!!!!

Open 7 days a week

SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE

**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56**



### Tiling

## I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on

01384 412796 or 07890 894631

### Tree Surgeon

## TREE SURGEONS

11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING

CALL US ON:  
**07817 553 346**  
**01384 387 016**



info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk  
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

## ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies  
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

### SPECIAL OFFERS

on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.  
- Rubberised flat roofing  
- Flat roof specialist  
- Insurance work undertaken  
- Est 25 years

- Discounted for OAPs

- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE

WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE



SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing

Home: **01384 872276**

Mobile: **07584 081228**

## ELITE PLASTICS

• Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge  
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair  
Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call

**01384 468831 / 07985 575865**

www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

## Chatsworth ROOFING AND DRIVEWAYS

- Roof repairs
- Block paving • Tarmac
- Artificial grass
- Local family business

20% DISCOUNT IN MARCH

FREE quotations

Tel: 01384 469 661

Mobile: 07587 804 206

www.chatsworthroofinganddriveways.co.uk



## Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

## C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small **07538 718264**

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

2

E-mail us at...  
**mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk**

3

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

## Index

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- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
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- 6 Property
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## Free Ads

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

For items up to £250

**VISIT:**

[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## Place a paid for advert

**By Phone 01902 317878**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

### Funeral Directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

**Independent family run Funeral Directors**  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

**1 Family**

### Elderly & Disabled

**WORLD OF MOBILITY**  
Stourbridge's longest established  
Family Run Mobility Store  
Brettell Lane, Amblecote,  
Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.  
**01384 378252**



STAIRLIFT

Straight lefthand stairlift,  
Handicare Simplicity. Fully  
assembled, can be seen  
working. Reason for sale,  
moved to bungalow.

Buyer to collect.

£700.

07702 806671.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01952 405397/07697 273617

**2 Leisure Time**

**Caravans/ Motorhomes**



BAILEY PEGASUS 462

2010, Vango Air tube porch  
awning, remote motor movers,  
ATC system, hitch and wheel  
locks. All the usual refinements  
of a top class touring caravan.

£8,750.

07538 651604.

### Self Catering Holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**

Self Catering Holiday  
Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
[www.GoSomerset.co.uk](http://www.GoSomerset.co.uk)

### Travel Abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
to check with any Advertiser  
that their holiday costs are fully  
covered by a recognised bonding or  
insurance scheme.

### Yorkshire

**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
Meadow Holidays  
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale  
"Weeks from £209 per couple"  
"Weekends just £99 per couple"  
Families Welcome  
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or  
visit historic market towns with friendly inns  
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145  
email: [rita@meadowholidays.com](mailto:rita@meadowholidays.com)  
[www.meadowholidays.com](http://www.meadowholidays.com)

### Sports & Leisure

**Free Ads**

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
To sell items up to £250.  
Online at  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

### what's on

### Book Fair

**BOOK FAIR** Kinver Community  
Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards.  
Sunday 18th March, Est 1979.  
Waverley, Next Antique Fair APR  
1ST. Home made refreshments.  
0121 550 4381.

**3 Home & Services**

### Collectables & Memorabilia

**FANTASTIC COLLECTION** of Guin-  
ness Memorabilia over 15 items,  
prices from £7, please ring for more  
details. 07548 684497.

### Furniture

**SETTEES**, 2 seater and 3 seater, 3  
months old, cost over £1,000,  
immaculate condition, check mate-  
rial, £400. 01384 348971.

### In Your Garden

**C B SHEDS & FENCING**  
We supply & fit. Free quotes.  
Call: 01922 720270  
We also supply sleepers and decking

**LAWN TRACTOR 22 HP.**  
42IN CUT  
With collector.  
As new. Unused.  
Cost £4,000  
will accept £1,995.  
Can deliver.  
07710 169150.

### Items For Sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**  
That the Business  
Advertisements (Disclosure)  
Order of 1977 requires that  
advertisements must clearly  
differentiate between Private  
and Trade.

**CORRUGATED GALVANISED**  
Sheets, New, 28 can deliver. Also  
box profile and PVC/polycarb.  
David Broxton on 07834 489558.

**ELECTRIC FIRE** Danville Optimyst  
Coal Effect. Only 16 months old.  
Cost £440 sell £150 for quick sale.  
01902 820973.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your adver-  
tisement today? We would respect-  
fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or inac-  
curacies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

**COINS MEDALS** bought by collec-  
tor, happy to view anywhere.  
01384 273396.

### A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/  
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/  
any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547  
[thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)



**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES**  
Britains, Corgi, Dinky,  
Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint  
and Mamod Engines.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone 01922 327897  
or 07976 691563.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to  
carefully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any  
of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus  
any Spectrum 128k+2 computer  
wanted also any old Crash or your  
Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

**WANTED**  
J40 Pedal car, vintage moped,  
Sinclair C5, harp. Vintage  
vending / slot machines, juke  
box, anything old, Old fire arms.  
Dudley 07930 949337.

### Loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
that they may require profes-  
sional advice before entering into  
obligations.

**specialists at your service**

### Aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99  
01902 858191 • 01384 429166  
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST**  
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV  
wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!**



"I am very pleased  
with the response  
I get from my  
Classified  
Advertising  
Contract"

Steve -  
AA Digital Aerials

For great business  
results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

### Alarms/Security

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

### Bathrooms

**CHANGING ROOMS**  
IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING YOUR HOME  
enquiries@changingrooms.org.uk  
Is bathing becoming difficult?  
Let us make life easier  
Easy Access! Wet Room Specialists  
Showroom at 47A Kent Street, Dudley  
01902 670426

### Building Services

**Davies & Son Builders**  
Over 35 years exp  
All aspects of building work  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways & landscaping.  
All work guaranteed  
Spring Offers! • Free Quotes  
07837 994465 / 01902 579592

### Fencing

**CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!**



"I am extremely happy with  
the service I get from my  
Express & Star Classified  
Sales Representatives and  
would recommend them to  
anyone! They have done a  
very professional job with  
my website so I get online  
enquiries as well now."

Michael -  
Portway Fencing

For great business  
results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Days of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards. £695  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

### Gardening Services

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per  
garden, 25 years experience. Call  
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

### Gas Fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

### House Clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid  
for house clearances and bereave-  
ments. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327 /  
01902 534021

### Plastering

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable. All Work  
Undertaken. All Areas. Call  
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

### Removals

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your  
Removal needs. 07429 453209/  
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

### Roofing

**Semi Retired Roofer**  
ALL ROOF REPAIRS  
Felt and Rubber Flat Roofing  
All at reasonable prices  
**07546 158165**

### Rubbish Removal

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No Skips  
Needed. Load/Remove any Waste.  
House Clearance. 07969 628382

### Skip Hire

**Grinsells Skip Hire LTD**  
Mini, Midi, Maxi, Large Skips.  
Monday to Friday.  
Saturday half day.  
**0121 555 6060**

**t.v. / home entertainment**

### Service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky,  
CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts  
and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

**4 Pets & Animals**

### Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to  
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies  
have the required Passport infor-  
mation, this is a legal requirement.

### Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.

### Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**5 Business & Farming**

**Business Opportunities**

**READERS** are recommended to  
take appropriate professional  
advice before entering into any  
obligations.

**6 Property**

**Accommodation To Let**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accom-  
modation Agencies Act 1953, for an  
Agency to charge a fee simply for  
the registration of your require-  
ments and/or supplying particulars  
of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek  
independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments/contracts.  
**A SMART SINGLE EN SUITE** room  
in a Shared house, Netherton  
£85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks  
deposit. 07940 116130.  
**BUNGALOW BUSHBURY**, 3 bed  
detached. Parking. As new.  
£695pcm. 01384 230222.  
**DETACHED 3-bed** Brierley Hill area,  
£800pcm, no DSS or smokers, suit  
professional. 07730 354888

### Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek  
independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments.

### Properties Wanted

**We buy houses**  
Sell your house fast

- avoid repossession
  - behind on payments
  - job relocation
  - unwanted inheritance
- What more -  
we buy in any condition  
No estate agent fees  
We pay all your legal fees

**ACT NOW!**  
Contact us on:  
**07796 801219 / 07988 882090**

Final whistle

**GOAL**

**THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY**

Part of Express & Star Ltd Express & Star

## Properties Wanted



**Yes! HOMEBUYERS**  
THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE

## We Buy Houses For Cash

Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!  
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!

Call **0121 663 1403**  
or text "Cash" to 66777 [yeshomebuyers.com](http://yeshomebuyers.com)

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!**  
**FAST 4 Your House CASH**

**You agree the price, we buy the house...**  
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU  
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**  
**01384 500 500** **30 yrs**

[www.black-countryhomes.co.uk](http://www.black-countryhomes.co.uk) \* subject to terms

**CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE**  
**UP TO £25,000 CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)**  
**0800 389 6788 01902 628047**  
We can buy your house in 7 days

**7**

**Jobs**

**SELL IT FAST**  
**SELL IT LOCAL**  
**01902 317878**

**Classified Ads**

## Courses



**BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 May** (also 5-6 Sept.)  
**WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July** (also 17-18 Nov.)  
**STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August** **TELFORD: 8-9 August**  
**Learn how to take blood**  
**TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**  
**Introduction to Phlebotomy**  
**TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED**  
• Allied Healthcare Career Path  
• Accredited (advanced) qualification  
• No previous experience required

For more info, or to book online: [www.geopace.com](http://www.geopace.com)

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

## Full Time General

**MNA Media**

## SENIOR REPORTERS

The Express and Star is looking for Senior Reporters to join the news team of one of Britain's biggest selling regional newspapers.

The successful candidates will be multi platform journalists working for our popular daily title and award-winning website.

Candidates should be enthusiastic, versatile, creative and prepared to go the extra mile to find the stories for our innovative and highly respected title. They must be accurate, multi-media skilled and be able to work calmly under pressure to meet tight deadlines.

The roles, which involve shift working including evenings and weekends, would suit someone who is qualified to at least NQJ accredited senior journalist or equivalent with a passion for news.

Anyone interested in applying should email

Editor's secretary Karen Baker at [karen.baker@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:karen.baker@expressandstar.co.uk). Please indicate in your application if you have a driving licence.

Closing date for applications: 6th April, 2018

**8**

**Motoring**

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**10**

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**Classified Ads**

# Kodiahq impresses on snowy slopes

By Sharon Walters

Škoda's Kodiahq has amassed a display case full of major awards since launch and is continuing to do so.

No hit the roads and run out of steam after a few months with gongs dwindling. It continues to improve with more models and options including the latest addition – the luxury with the brand's five or seven-seat SUV gaining the Czech brand's top-end trim level, revealed in full this week at the Geneva Motor Show.

Well awards are impressive but it's when you get behind the wheel that you can judge for yourself on a day-to-day everyday basis.

And I certainly did that in a week in the Edition 2.0 TDi 150PS 4x4 with seven seats – and thank heavens I had that 4x4 capability on one particular day. More of that later.

There's a good range of petrol and diesel engines and trim levels with 2WD, 4WD, manual or DSG automatic transmissions.

## Conditions

Drive Mode Select allows the driver to adjust the engine management, gearing ratio and power steering input to suit varying road conditions just at the touch of a finger including eco which really reduces fuel consumption and, what turned out to be so important for me, snow mode.

A trip around the Scottish Highlands was lovely with relatively mild weather for the most part, there was plenty of snow lying on the higher ground but the roads were clear of the white stuff, even on Rannoch Moor.

I stopped at almost the highest point to take some photographs of the car with the mountains in the background – lovely. I jumped back in, drove a few hundred yards



The cabin has good quality finish and trim

and ran into a white out, quite literally with a good covering of snow on the road and I could barely see the sides of the road – which dropped into ditches or steep slopes. I tapped it into snow mode, felt the whole car change its 'attitude' and with care made my way down the ever-steepening slope off the moor until I reach a queue of traffic slewed all over the road, two huge timber lorries unable to make it up the slope with a snow plough and gritter stuck behind. What joy.

With a little wiggling and jiggling, thanks to a very organised fellow driver, space was made for the gritter and plough to get through and my car impressed with its ability to reverse on the deepening snow to make a gap and then creep through as other wheels spun...

Feeling rather smug I made my way on. The Kodiahq is full of the latest technologies with top level passive safety and impressive advanced assistance systems which do much to reduce accidents. And the car has a full five rating from NCAP in safety ratings.



## DRIVEN — AT A GLANCE

### Škoda Kodiahq Edition

Engine: 2.0 TDi 150PS 4x4  
Transmission: Six-speed manual  
Performance: Combined mpg 51.4mpg, CO2 144g/km, max speed 121mph, 0-60mph 9.6 seconds  
Price OTR: £33,675, £25,750 with extras

### Multi-award winning package from Škoda

activation of the warning hazard lights and interruption of the fuel supply in the event of a collision. Crew Protect Assist closes the windows and sunroof, and tensions the front seat belts in.

You also get numerous cameras as well as radar- and sensor-based systems plus the more usual Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Assist, Blind Spot Detect, Emergency Assist, Traffic Jam Assist and Traffic Sign Recognition. And that does indeed all add up to a very safe car.

The cabin is high standard with good

quality finish and trim and easy to use sat/nav infotainment and the like. In fact ultra-modern connectivity has been given a high priority in the Kodiahq, with the inclusion of the Škoda Connect online service which integrates all the traffic flow, Google Earth, fuel stops, parking info etc, as well as an automatic emergency call in the event of an accident.

Plus those rear two seats fold very easily totally flat. A real bonus.

The Kodiahq range has a starting price of £22,190 for the S trim, five-seat, 1.4-litre 125ps manual petrol.

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# How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarking recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German gooliaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

## Increased effectiveness using newspapers

Retail	Automotive	Finance
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For the full story and more details:  
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First team manager Wayne Spicer



Black Country Rangers players celebrate a goal



The club's new badge



Black Country Fusion will come under the Black Country FC banner

# Growing team flies the flag for Black Country

**BLACK Country Rangers are on a mission to become a major player on the non-league scene.**

While the action on the pitch may have been hampered by the recent wintry conditions, there has been plenty going on off the field at the ambitious West Midlands League club.

Rangers run one side at the moment, in the Premier Division, but are now expanding.

They have agreed a merger with Sunday League side Black Country Fusion which will result in five adults teams – including a ladies' side – while the club are in the process of setting up an academy.

For good measure, to complete the re-brand job, they have a new badge and will be known as Black Country Football Club.

Black Country Rangers will still exist as the first team but will be under the umbrella of BCFC.

First team boss Wayne Spicer provided the initial spark for the ambitious plans.

Spicer joined the club in a coaching capacity at the start of the season before taking on the assistant manager's role and then moving into the hot-seat when former boss Lewis Jones stepped down.

## Challenge

He quickly identified the need to expand and now the club's hard-working board have taken up the challenge.

"I just felt that if we want to be sustainable and develop things in the future then we need to be a club," said Spicer.

"At the minute we are not a club we are just one team, Black Country Rangers.

"So we have decided to put a board together and add other teams to create one club.

"We are merging with Black Country Fusion and we are starting an academy for six to 12-year-olds and looking at adding other youth teams.

"We are looking to get other coaches on board and are going to be holding trials for different age groups.

"If we are going to be an aspiring semi-professional team that wants to go as high as possible, then we need youngsters coming through.

"We realise there is a massive gap between Sunday

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Liam Keen

***"This is something I was keen to drive forward and credit to everyone at the club because they have been working hard to get things off the ground."***

league and the level we play at, what we have to try to do is bridge that gap.

"Hopefully we can set up a reserve side in the future to help bridge the gap to the first team but top of the hit list at the moment is to get the academy up and running.

"This is something I was keen to drive forward and credit to everyone at the club because they have been working hard to get things off the ground.

"Pete Whitehouse, who is the head of the academy, has been working really hard and the chairman, Paul Garner, has been behind everything and really supportive.

"The merger with Black Country Fusion has resulted in Skye Stewart coming on board and she has been absolutely fantastic in all aspects.

"It will help build a more sustainable club instead of one team, as well as having 10 brains working on it instead of one."

Spicer added: "I'm very confident of how the merger will go, our main goal is to become one of the biggest clubs in the Black Country, playing football the right way."

Joining forces with Fusion has resulted in Skye Stewart become vice-chair of the club.

And Stewart is aiming high. She said: "This benefits both clubs, we're being ambitious and the merger can drive us forward instead of plodding along where

we are. We want to stamp our mark on the Black Country.

"We want the teams to do well, become well known in the region and grow a future for children in the Black Country. It'll help with our sustainability," she added. "It's the start of our future and we want to take it as far as we can and be the next big club in the Black Country."

Chairman Garner is excited at what the future holds. He said: "This is something as a club we have been looking to do for a long time, we just needed to make sure we had the right people to meet this new challenge head on.

"Non-league football is about people sharing a vision and common goal and we feel bringing Skye on board, who has so much passion for the game and desire to improve on something successful she has already built, will only propel the club to greater heights.

"We are excited about the future and any new challenges that may lie ahead."

While the future is looking bright for the club, the present is not too shabby either.

## Promotion

Spicer has wasted little time making his mark in only his second taste of management, having led West Bromwich United to promotion from Division Two and League Cup glory last season.

Rangers are unbeaten in 13 games since he took on the lead role and their eye-catching brand of football has even been featured on Soccer AM, who showed a clip of a stunning team goal scored by Kieron Clarke against Malvern Town.

A disappointing start to the season put paid to any realistic chance of challenging for the title, but a top four finish is still a possibility.

"We didn't have a great start but we have had a strong middle," said Spicer.

"The best thing for me is that the boys have put their faith in me and bought into my philosophy. Credit to the boys for that.

"We have set high standards and Graham Ward (assistant boss) has added his knowledge and experience to the mix which will only help push us forward as a club."

## Boxer in polished debut performance

DEBUTANT Damien Kiwior caught the eye on fight night at Walsall Town Hall. Alex Florence, Tivdiale's Ryan 'Stewart' Davies and Danny Ball of Kingswinford were all victorious on the 'Class of 2018' card.

Despite a number of cancellations, organisers BCB Promotions made sure the show went on. Ledbury's Florence, a 21-year-old super lightweight, put Czech Republic's Jan Korec to the sword early, referee Kevin Parker bringing proceedings to an end in the first round.

Davies recorded a first career stoppage, in four rounds over Birmingham's Myles Vale, while super welterweight Ball recorded a 39-38 victory after being taken the distance by seasoned Bolton fighter Chris Jenkinson.

Topping the bill was Poland's decorated amateur Kiwior, making his eagerly-awaited professional debut. He looked comfortable throughout his four round contest with Bulgaria's Anatoli Lyubenov and recorded a 40-36 victory. A moment's reflection, and a collection, was held in memory of Reagan Asbury who died outside the venue in October.

## Princess Royal unveils uni's fitness facility

A NEW Sport & Fitness Club at the University of Birmingham has been officially unveiled by HRH the Princess Royal. She unveiled a plaque and delivered a speech as part of a formal opening ceremony.

The University of Birmingham's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood welcomed the Princess to the new facility before she was introduced to Chancellor Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, Pro-Chancellor Ed Smith, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Myra Nimmo and Director of Sport Zena Wooldridge OBE.

The royal visitor met students, athletes and staff and was given a tour of the facility, led by Zena Wooldridge, with visits to the 50m swimming pool, fitness studios, squash courts, the indoor multi-purpose arena and sports hall, climbing wall and performance centre.

The Sport & Fitness Club opened its doors to students, staff and the community in May 2017, providing a new gateway to the University's iconic Edgbaston campus.

## Gavin gutted as plug pulled on title bout

BIRMINGHAM boxer Frankie Gavin's hopes of a world title fight later this month have been left on the canvas by the loss of a major sponsor.

The show at the Genting Arena continues with a strong line-up including four title bouts. But Gavin said he was devastated at losing the chance to fight for a world title. He was due to face African Bethuel Ushona for the vacant IBO Welterweight World title on Saturday March 24.

But the team behind his big night – billed as 'Now or Never' – have been forced to pull the headline fight after a major sponsor failed to materialise.

The show goes on with a full undercard promoted by Black Country Boxing.

Gavin said: "I am absolutely gutted. To have the opportunity to win a belt and decent purse snatched away from me has left me devastated."

Kevin Baker, of BWI Promotions who were hosting Gavin's fight, said the team was hopeful of finding another option for him in the spring. Tickets are still available at theticketfactory.com but anyone who has bought a ticket for Gavin can obtain a refund by contacting their point of purchase.



SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

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## Team's riders saddle up for new season

HALESOWEN Cycling Club are poised to have an eight-strong racing team for the 2018 season.

First-year junior Henry Lloyd-Langston, 16-year-old Wolverhampton rider Daniel Morris and under-23s racer James Phaysey will bolster the ranks of a development team which continues to make impressive strides.

Last season's stand-out performer Jack Stanton-Warren has moved on to the professional Wheelbase squad to further his ambitions on the national stage.

Isobel Whiteley has also departed in order to join a specialist sprinting team.

But Halesowen will again be able to call on Matt Clarke, along with Patrick Fotheringham, Nick Clayton, Tom Swinger and Jo Hobbs.

"We are delighted to see Jack's progress and wish him well in his move, said club chairman Dave Viner. "We are also happy to see Izzy move on down the path she has chosen."

Stanton-Warren, 22, progressed strongly in his fourth year of racing, attaining his elite level licence. Along the way he won two National B races, finished eighth overall at the Tour of the North International three-day stage race in Northern Ireland and raced successfully in Belgium.

Clarke enjoyed success after returning from a knee injury and managed two wins. The most notable was the National B Severn Valley RR. He also finished second by a tyre's-width in the prestigious Worcester Trophy – and ended the season a narrow second in the West Midlands Road Race League.

Viner added: "We have a long and proud history of developing talented young cyclists."

## Rugby sides on their travels for Plate ties

DK, Stourbridge and Old Halesonians all have away ties in the quarter-final of the North Midlands Colts Plate.

The competition is for teams beaten early in the North Midlands Colts Cup. Old Hales, beaten 31-13 in the last eight of the Cup by holders Hereford, will travel to the winners of Sunday's preliminary round tie between Telford Hornets and Newport. Stourbridge, who lost 50-0 to Luctonians in the Cup quarters, are at Camp Hill, while DK are at Malvern. Ledbury v Worcester is the other tie.

The Cup semi-finals are Hereford v Birmingham & Solihull, Luctonians v Bromsgrove.

## Glassboys earn a point

STOURBRIDGE earned a point at Buxton with a 1-1 draw on Tuesday night.

Glassboys took the lead on 50 minutes when Stuart Pierpoint's long free-kick eventually fell to Leon Broadhurst in the box and his shot found its way in. Buxton replied with a Liam Hardy penalty after Darryl Westlake fouled Nico De Giralomo.

## On the oche for hospice fundraiser



A fan with Daryl Gurney

A CHARITY darts exhibition raised £5,500 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Daryl 'Super Chin' Gurney, Steve 'Bronzed Adonis' Beaton, Jamie 'Cabby' Caven and Alan 'Chuck' Norris took part in the four-man charity tournament at the Parkes Hall Social Club in Dudley, raising money and awareness for the work of the

Hagley Road Hospice as well as The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, which received a further £1,200.

Tickets sold out well in advance with more than 200 darts fans seeing Beaton beat Gurney in the final.

The event was also supported by professional caller, Kirk 'The Kirkulator' Bevins, and walk-on girls Daniella Harper and Char-

lotte Wood, who donated their time to the evening.

It was the second Tungsten Hold 'Em darts event in support of the Hospice. The inaugural event brought in £4,000.

Hospice spokesman Dan Malin said: "The work that Sean and his organising team have put into this event has been just remarkable."



Meeting Steve Beaton

## Tivi boss King hails fightback

BOSS Dave King hailed the 'great character and strength' of Tividale after they came from behind to beat Bilston Town 4-2.

Demetri Brown hit a hat-trick and victory sees Tivi remain third in the West Midlands Premier table – four points behind leaders Malvern Town, with three games in hand.

"It was a great win for us, I'm so chuffed with the lads," said boss King on the triumph at Queen Street.

"The lads took a lot of criticism after the 2-1 loss at Wednesfield, our last game before that – and rightly so."

"So to bounce back like that, after going 2-0 down with everyone there gunning against us, was great. We went 2-0 down after starting really slow. The lads showed great character and strength to pull through. Once we got the equaliser, we knew we would go on to win it."

Kartel O'Neil-Martin put Bilston two up, the second from the spot.

Tivi were back in the game before the half-hour mark when Joe Lawley put through Brown and he rounded keeper Victor Pinheiro.

Brown levelled on 70 minutes and completed his hat-trick when he pounced on a mistake by defender Todd Perry. A Joe Lawley penalty completed proceedings.

Cradley Town beat Bridgnorth 1-0, while in the West Midlands (Regional) Division One, Sam Heston fired the winner to help Tipton Town to a 1-0 win at his former club Darlaston Town (1874).

## Odem wings in for Eades' charity clash

PETER Odemwingie will don an Albion shirt again in a charity match for former Baggies mascot Richard Eades.

The striker has signed up for an Albion Legends XI which will take on a team of supporters at Halesowen Town on Sunday, April 29. Kick off is at 4.30pm and tickets £5.

The match has been organised in memory of the much-loved Eades, a long-serving Baggies employee who died suddenly in December.

Odemwingie, who currently plays for Indonesian outfit Madura United, confirmed his involvement via a video message on Twitter.

## No limits as racing pair return



Pete Wright, left, and Martyn Siviter, will be back in the No Limits endurance championships

AFTER riding their way to back-to-back titles – in their first two seasons competing on the club circuit – the Double Two Racing boys are plotting another successful year.

Black Country pair Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter have been busy working on their fitness, acquiring new sponsors and getting the laps in during testing throughout the close season.

Wright, from Tividale, and Siviter, from Blackheath, begin their third No Limits endur-

ance campaign when round one is launched at Snetterton 300, in Norfolk, March 24-25.

Double Two Racing had ended last year's campaign in style, pulling out their best result of the year – despite having already wrapped up the title – during the penultimate round at Croft, in Yorkshire, winning the Club 600 class.

The team then signed off with a 100 per cent podium finishing record after coming third at Donington Park during the final round.

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